

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 30TH DECEMBER, 1905

No. 27

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	453
Leading Articles:—	
Reaction in China	454
The Miracle of Christmas	455
Chinese Company Promoting	455
Chinese Proneness to Swarmery	455
Chinese Labour and Transvaal Prosperity	456
The Yellow River Bridge	456
Hongkong Sanitary Board	457
Supreme Court	457
Companies.—	
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co.	458
The Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	458
Weihaiwei Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	459
Canton	459
Macao	459
The Linchow Affair	459
St. Joseph's College Prize Distribution	460
Ahead of His Time	461
"Shanghai Under Arms"	461
The Status of Shanghai	464
Correspondence	464
Christmas Misadventures	464
The Mixed Court Incident	464
A Shanghai Point of View	465
Miscellaneous	465
Commercial	465
Shipping	468

BIRTH.

On the morning of the 24th December, at the Government Civil Hospital, EDWARD HERBST aged 64 years.

MARRIAGE.

On 16th December, at Shanghai, DONALD R. McEVEN, second son of the late Capt. McEVEN, Captain Superintendent of Police, to K. RUTH ANDERSEN, only daughter of Capt. W. P. ANDERSEN, C. I. M. Customs service.

DEATHS.

On 17th December, at Amoy, the wife of TOM GREAVES GOWLAND, of a daughter.

On 18th December, at Shanghai, Lord YU KENG, ex-Minister to France.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of November 24th arrived, per the s.s. *Polynesian*, on Tuesday, the 26th instant; and the English Mail of December 1st arrived, per the s.s. *Oceana*, on Thursday, the 28th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The Shanghai Mixed Court was re-opened on Dec. 23 with German Assessors.

The N.Y.K. has decided to continue its Bombay service without a special subsidy.

The Japanese Red Cross Society spent nearly four and a half million yen during the war.

Tientsin has contributed a thousand foreign trained Chinese policemen to the Peking force.

The withdrawal of Russian soldiers from Manchuria is said to be proceeding "as slowly as possible."

H.M.S. *Andromeda* landed 350 men at Shanghai on December 26th.

The Chinese authorities are considering the advisability of substituting judicial hangings for decapitations.

The three coal mines of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. are turning out twenty thousand tons a week.

It turns out that it was the Guilds which met to consider "the foreign insults to China," and determined to retaliate and "resist to the death."

Mr. H. Westerveld, of Messrs. C. Nickel & Co., a resident in Kobe for eight or nine years, and a well-known athlete, committed suicide at Kobe on the 14th, aged 40.

A placard in a Rangoon tradesman's shop announces that "anyone found on these premises for the purpose of getting full value for their money will be amply rewarded."

The gentry of Shansi are now agitating for the cancellation of mining concessions held by the Peking Syndicate in Ping-ting-chow, Yu Hsien Fnan, Tsechow, and Pinyangfu.

The new electric tramway at Penang is drawing near completion. The cars are only single-decked, and the seats run in rows across the breadth of the car. The sides are quite open.

It is now announced that a sky race meeting will be held during the period covered by the visit of Prince Arthur of Connaught to Hongkong next February. The event is being promoted by the Jockey Club.

We hear that the people of Honam are buying charms and amulets from men who promise to make them invulnerable against sword or bullet. This was a feature of the Boxer outbreak, and may mean something now.

Instructions have been issued to the provinces to prospect for and develop sulphur springs as sulphur is required for the manufacture of matches, but no foreign capital is to be introduced in connection with the industry.

Christmas day at Hongkong was spoiled by torrential rains, and some thunder. So heavy and persistent was the downpour that chair and ricksha coolies decamped, and many invited guests were unable to keep their appointments.

Three wireless telegraphy poles have been erected in the Viceroy's Yamen at Tientsin. The poles are in three parts and the total height is 210 feet. The poles for Peking will shortly be put up and communication established.

A piece of crown land at Deep Water Bay consisting of 19,600 square feet, was the subject of an auction at the Public Works Department on the 27th December when Messrs. Shewan Tomes and Co., acquired the letting rights for \$980.

The weather outside Hongkong during the last few days has been very bad, "strong monsoons and high seas" being experienced by incoming steamers. In such weather the s.s. *Kaifong* (which had broken a propeller) was towed by the *Taming* from Mariveles, and the officers on both ships had a very anxious time. They came across safely in 69 hours, and the *Kaifong* has gone into dock.

Queues are still being mysteriously ("magically," the Chinese say) being cut off at Canton, generally in the night. The authorities are offering rewards for a solution of the mystery. Can it be that the victims are themselves reformers, and have made a mystery of it to "save face"?

The fleet of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, consisting of 73 sea-going vessels in commission, with an aggregate of 250,904 tons, will in the course of the next year be reinforced by nine additional vessels, representing an increase of 26,050 tons. The new steamers range from 6,550 to 1,350 tons and upon their completion the fleet of the company will amount to 278,063 tons, including steam launches, etc.

There was a general attempt to escape from the prison of the Board of Punishment, and the presidents subsequently recommended certain condemned prisoners to mercy on the ground that they had refrained from taking part in that attempt. They included the name of a woman prisoner who had been confined separately, and who could not have joined in the escape if she had wished. Therefore the presidents were "corrected" for bribery and corruption.

A report of a quadrille party held by the Taikoo Club on December 23rd reaches us rather late; but there was an interesting event in connection therewith which deserves to be put on record. On behalf of the staff of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery, Mrs. D. Templeton handed a wedding present to Miss A. Grethe who was spoken of as "the first lady to be married from Quarry Bay, one of their own bringing up." The party was quite a success, and visitors from town returned in a special tram.

The *Eastern World* says that the Japanese Government has in contemplation the following plan for the establishment of a match monopoly; but will it improve the breed of matches? That the existing match manufacturers in the country, over 200 in number, be incorporated into one big company. That the new company be granted the sole right of manufacture and sale of matches. That the said privilege run for a term of 10 or 15 years. That some two million yen be paid to the Government for the privilege. In the furtherance of the above plan a project of law will probably be submitted to the forthcoming session of the Diet.

About 40 members and students of the Sanitary Institute visited the Green Island Cement Works on the 24th December. The party, which was under the leadership of Mr. L. T. Perkins and included Dr. Clark, Dr. Pearce, Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary Sanitary Board), had the launch *Emerald* placed at their disposal by the Hon. Mr. R. Shewan, and on arrival at the works they were met by the manager, Mr. V. Uldall and escorted over the premises. In the course of their inspecting processes, the manufacture of the cement from the original limestone and clay to the finished article. At the close the Hon. Mr. R. Shewan and the manager were cordially thanked for their contribution to an instructive afternoon and before the party separated they took the opportunity of showing their appreciation of Mr. Perkins' services. It should be added that the arrangements were in the capable hands of Mr. A. Carter, the assistant secretary.

REACTION IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 23rd December.)

While the recent awakening of the great, but unwieldy realm of China to a sense of her own importance amongst the nations of the world cannot be looked upon otherwise than as, in the long run, satisfactory for the world at large, it yet has its embarrassing features: not the least unsatisfactory part of which, as we the other day pointed out in connection with railway affairs, was that it was being taken advantage of by the reactionary party to block the wheels of progress. A curious instance of how slight is as yet the way gained, is afforded by the change in the deportment of the five commissioners being sent under Imperial auspices to study on the spot the practical working of representative governments throughout Europe. But a few weeks ago the first step was taken amidst the universal plaudits of the nation: the new light had already dawned and all classes concurred in forecasting a happy result for the rejuvenated Empire. The explosion of a single bomb carried by an unknown and apparently unfriended individual has, to all outward appearance, changed all that, and the Commissioners, no longer the hope of the patriotic classes of the land, half ashamed of themselves, and no longer the observed of all beholders, are with ill grace being literally thrust out, practically ignominiously, and certainly unwillingly. The lessons of many years have, in fact, under this new excitement been momentarily forgotten, and consciously or unconsciously, we find China, but a few days ago with her garments bound up and her face resolute to take the needed step, now halting, shivering on the brink, and again turning a longing glance to the old slough of despond whence her best friends had hoped that she had at last escaped. Now be it understood we are not deprecating in any way the returning desire of China to be once more a power amongst the nations: on the contrary we should welcome such a movement with outstretched arms, but China's return to greatness is not to be accomplished in her present mood, which is simply a harking back on the old tracks of self-conceited ignorance. With much humiliation of spirit her exemplar, Japan, saw the necessity, would she too be great, of accepting the rôle of learner and sitting at the feet of Europe; her path was not made smooth for her, and many a time she was disposed to resent her treatment, but if her humiliation was great her reward has been still greater, and now her alliance and friendship is a thing sought by the greatest of the powers. If it be China's ambition to take her place likewise amongst the great nations, the way is likewise open to her: she will receive more help than Japan; but, and there is a very effectual *but* in the case, she must, as a preliminary, attain the art of learning without temper or self-assertion. Now unfortunately it has been the weak point of China that throughout all her history she has been wanting in these very qualities; and it is not too much to say that in all ages her chief calamities have befallen her through their lack. The present year has shown that she has not even yet begun to see the weakest of her many points of weakness. With a splendid case, and the sympathy of the entire world, she has succeeded in thoroughly alienating the public feeling of the United States by her weak attempt at boycotting a trade, in which she was herself the principal gainer; and equally her ill-timed self-assertion in the matter of railways, as she was just beginning to

experience their benefits, political and commercial, seems likely to cause the withdrawal of her best friends and throw her back into the hands of those very Powers who, under the cloak of friendship, are plotting her destruction.

The recent affair at Shanghai exhibits more clearly still how seriously these defects of temper are retarding all her best efforts at amendment. Of the many points in which China stands in the rear ranks of civilisation, there is none more marked, even according to her own confession, than her administration of her criminal law. It is, in fact, one of the points on which her own wise men have in every age been agreed. In connection with her criminal law, her jails have at all times been a disgrace to humanity, and her wisest have acknowledged the necessity of her purging herself of the disgrace. It being an impossibility for any community belonging to the higher civilisation to exist under these conditions, when the port of Shanghai was opened, in the anticipation of an important settlement of merchants and others engaged in the commerce of the place, it was distinctly understood that on the foreign community should rest the responsibility for the good order of the place, and to that intent certain powers were conferred upon the community as a whole. The practical extinction of all rule of any sort in the districts round, consequent on the Taiping Rebellion, caused numbers of Chinese to seek refuge in the settlements, where all through under the aegis of foreign protection, order had been preserved. When the Imperial government was restored in the country round neither side made any efforts to alter these conditions, which practically both, native and foreign, found advantageous. At the same time no attempt was made to bring these native residents under foreign law except in so far as the necessary municipal regulations for the good order and the sanitation of the Settlements were concerned, and the execution of these even being left in the hands of the constituted Imperial authorities. A naturally somewhat complicated system of local jurisprudence sprang up, and to render this capable of practical administration, the so-called "Mixed Courts" were established under the sole authority of the Emperor of China as Lord of the Soil.

By degrees these Mixed Courts, which for a time had been fairly clean, began to revel in all the iniquities and dirt which grow up in congenial soil about the native Yamen. Unpaid runners with ind-defined duties, but with a generally understood right to live on their offices and to contribute towards the expenses of their superiors, were appointed as in the native courts; their overt duties being to issue summonses, and make arrests. As the policing of the Settlements had from the first been placed in the hands of the "Committee" of the foreign land holders, and as these unpaid runners were making use of their offices to exact illegal fees, this no-system became a matter of complaint, with the result that it was agreed that the runners of the Court should be accompanied by the Municipal Police in the execution of all warrants within the Settlements. But the right of jurisdiction, never in any case denied, was of necessity accompanied with the right of administration, and for that premises for court and execution were required, including, of course, the necessary jails. As in many cases the Magistrate was only too happy to be relieved of the trouble and expense of keeping his prisoners, a custom arose that the Municipality should take over the able-bodied and employ them on municipal roads and other useful works.

Meanwhile the number of prisoners necessary to be provided for was, with the growth of the Settlements, the population of which already approached half a million, rapidly increasing. The jails provided by the Courts were, as all Chinese jails, utterly devoid of all attempts at sanitation, and with constant outbreaks of beri-beri were becoming a source of danger to the community at large. Under the circumstances, the Municipality built a new jail with all necessary appliances for sanitation and inspection, and the affair, taking expense and responsibility off the shoulders of the Magistrate of the Mixed Court, for a time all went along merrily; no one was hurt, no dignity was offended, and better control was able to be exercised over the number of criminals who always gather around a growing population. Unfortunately for the peace of the community a new Taotai, one Mr. YUEN, afflicted with the newfangled ideas of dignity to which we have alluded, but unable to see the reason why it had become necessary for China to assert herself, was appointed to the post, which above all requires the exercise of good temper and discretion, in both of which he has proved himself lamentably deficient. The ordinary Chinese jail is bad enough, but on the female side all its drawbacks are magnified. When the male prisoners had been removed to the new jail with the approval of all, the female quarters were not completed. Meanwhile under new influences new officials were appointed, and when, on their completion, the Council wished to move the women into the new quarters the cry of insulting the sovereign dignity of China was raised. The new Magistrate took upon himself the task of building a new female jail, in all respects as its predecessor, and stoutly insisted on his rights to supreme control over his prisoners without any reference to the Settlement Regulations whether sanitary or otherwise. As in most cases where a wantonly aggressive attitude has been assumed, the actual outbreak was accidental, and had nothing to do whatever with the point of quarrel. Some prisoners, amongst whom were one or two women, were brought before the Court charged with kidnapping. There were one or two suspicious circumstances connected with the case, and it was by no means clear that any crime had been committed. Under the circumstances it was decided to adjourn the case, and the BRITISH ASSESSOR, in order to prevent undue influence being used, desired to have the accused taken to the Municipal Jail, where they would be properly treated and free from interference. The MAGISTRATE, carefully primed by Taotai YUEN in the new principle of seeing in every remonstrance some interference with the dignity of the Empire, attempted to intermeddle by force, but naturally ineffectually. Had the thing been permitted to cool there would have been no further trouble, and a way out of the difficulty could have been quickly found without compromising either. Unfortunately the motto *appetitus rationi pareat* did not prevail the next day, and the TAOTAI, instead of attempting to bring those concerned together, took the unwise course of seeking to inflame the prejudices of his fellow subjects. Such has been the cause of the first dissolution of the hitherto well-understood entente, between the numerous nationalities of which the Foreign Settlements are built up. It is a proof, if such were needed, of the wisdom of the first measures adopted, as well as of the general ability for self-government of the residents, native as well as foreign, that for upwards of sixty years, until the advent of

the present TAOTAI, no cause of quarrel has arisen to alienate the mutual sympathies of the residents, Chinese or foreign.

THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS.

(Daily Press, 25th December.)

"Peace on earth, and goodwill among men." This is the season of the best ideal, when even those whom the sad realities of experience have taught to flee ideals permit themselves, for a day or two, the happiness of contemplating pleasant possibilities. There is an element of faith-healing apparent at this time, when the *zeitgeist* compels the discarding, as of a garment, of the front of pessimism, of cynicism, of aloofness, and of suspicion, that men have perforce been presenting to their fellows. It is the miracle of the Host in the Eucharist; the idea of charity, of fraternity, of general good will, obsesses the average individual to such an extent, if only for the holiday, that he becomes aware of the real presence. This is so much worth being grateful for, that we may well avoid cheap sarcasms at the evanescent quality of the Christmas mood; and on the principle of the half loaf, grasp each other by the hand, and confide mutually that the old world is not so much out of joint after all. What though the streets of Moscow may run with blood, and stark-eyed corpses "salute the happy morn"; what though the LITTLE FATHER gives thanks in holy church while his children are mown down by TREPPE's machine-guns; what though foolish human nature, and its particularly foolish mouth-piece the Yellow Press, strives assiduously to set JOHN BULL and his cousin German by the ears; in our time and in our part of the world a truce prevails, and for two score hours after these words, see the light, we may "brithers be and a' that." Let us for the nonce then be glad worshippers at the shrines of FATHER CHRISTMAS and ST. MARK TAPLEY, saying after TINY TIM, "God bless us, everyone." So may we enjoy a Happy Christmas and a Hopeful New Year.

CHINESE COMPANY PROMOTING.

(Daily Press, 25th December.)

Approaching the second half of the first decade of a new century, it is a little odd to find a people who can boast an ancient civilisation affirming and re-affirming such a (to us) self-evident proposition as the merits and advantages of a pure water supply. The people of Canton, before organising the Canton Waterworks Co., seemingly had to satisfy themselves by iteration and re-iteration that such was necessary. The conditions and regulations drawn up by the officials and gentry also cast an interesting side light upon the modern mind of the Cantonese. The out-of-date state of Chinese currency is illustrated by the stipulation that the public must pay for their hundred *tael* shares "at the standard weight of 99 *taels* 7 *mace* foreign currency," and that dividends ("if any") are to be accepted at the same rate. There is a quaint implication in the condition that scrip issued to officials and merchants shall be of the same kind: evidently joint stock practice, like death, is going to be a great leveller. The feeling toward the stranger within the gates is indicated by the rule that none but Chinese are to be stock-holders. Even hypothecations by foreigners are to be ignored. The translation of the rules offers a fine phrase for the foreign company promoter: could anything be more attractive than "the establishment is based on sound

reckoning, and is sure to pay?" The position of the Government is peculiar: it is to take five per cent of the surplus profits "as a royalty." There is the germ of a good idea of sound procedure in the proposal to fix the proportion to be laid aside as reserve; foreign company law might be better if it left less to the discretion of directors. A curious arrangement is that by which "any canvasser who shall cause 300 shares to be taken up will receive 15 shares free for himself, and shall be entitled to recommend a shroff to be employed by the company." It is explained that "many clerks and shroffs will be required." That our neighbours are not averse to foreign ways when they run concurrent with their own wishes is to be gathered from the clause which says, "according to the European custom, the promoters [or canvassers before alluded to] are entitled to a bonus on the surplus profits in perpetuity, as the promoters will then devote and concentrate their soul and mind to look after the company's interest as if it were their own, and will be immune to the petty temptations that come before them. Although our company may not be able to treat the promoters as well as the European companies do" [reflections permitted here *ad lib.*] "yet we should try and follow their footsteps and learn some of their methods." To which we may add, some, yes, but not all. It is interesting to find a special stipulation that civil and military yamens and other official departments, however high, must pay for the water they get. Evidently the foreign antipathy to official squeeze is an idea that is taking root. It can do no harm.

CHINESE PRONENESS TO SWARMERY.

(Daily Press, 27th December.)

In a long defunct paper, the *Supreme Court and Consular Gazette*, which at the time included amongst its contributors some of the ablest pens in China, appeared in August 1868 two articles on what the writer, well acquainted with his subject, denominated "Swarmeries" in China. Taking as his text CARLYLE's celebrated essay, "Shooting Niagara," he remarks that had the author had an opportunity of visiting China he would have found ample means of illustrating the peculiar political disease to which he gave the above quaint denomination. This disease of swarmery, or the gathering together of men in swarms, and the extraordinary prodigies they do and think when in that condition, has been amply illustrated in recent occurrences in Shanghai. "If," says the writer, "there is one thing more characteristic of the Chinese than another it is the faculty of swarming. In almost every sphere of life they resort to this principle of action. Not only do they do so in cases where it may be considered possibly desirable to get up an excitement, such for example as the necessity of exorcising a foreigner from a given place; but even in such matters as it is usually thought should be conducted in the coldest blood, they herd together and in a rude way take the opinion of the mass thus constituted. In this manner disputes and legal cases are repeatedly settled. . . . Not only civil but criminal injuries are for the most part settled in China by swarmeries at tea shops, and in many instances harsh and cruel chastisement is administered in a summary way by the mob after it has decided that someone who has offended it is deserving of chastisement. . . . The terror of such inflictions,

which influences the minds of all Chinese, forms the secret of much of their obstinate defiance to foreigners. They do not dare to act according to their own dictates of common sense: but are in perpetual dread of the opinion either of the swarm to which they belong, or of some opposition clique, one of whom may seize an opportunity of picking a quarrel." After describing the way in which this peculiar propensity is taken advantage of by the inhabitants of certain districts and by the guilds in a dispute, he points out how frequently these swarmeries are made the means of inflicting gross injustice on individuals, as well as militating against the true interests of a commercial nation. The most dangerous development of the Chinese tendency to segregate in flocks, says our writer, "is naturally to be found in respect to political matters. It is a notable fact that some writers of considerable ability and thought have expressed opinions favourable to this feature of Chinese society. We recently had occasion to differ from a gentleman of no little experience in Chinese matters with regard to this point; and we must confess that, judging from the facts stated by the advocates of the system themselves, we can come to no other conclusion than that the readiness with which the Chinese form themselves into associations of this nature is an indication of the want of proper organisation and government; and not the existence of personal liberty as this is understood in Europe. An unpopular appointment, an objectionable tax, a too rigorous punishment, repeatedly lead to such gatherings in China as result in riots, insurrection and rebellion. Whenever a combination is formed, and more especially when it is for an object in which the officials are concerned, the idea of resorting to force is never far from the minds of those engaged in it, and the absence of an efficient executive of any kind leaves the authorities powerless to check the actions right or wrong of often only a few hundred men who have combined to carry out a definite object." "The whole of these evils are traceable in part, if not altogether, to one cause. In Chinese there exists a force of resistance, but no force of restraint. The people oppose the magistrates; they oppose one another: they rise against established authority, and there is no force in many parts of the empire which can for a day sustain the magistrate in doing what is right; prevent one of the people from oppressing the other, put down a riot, or disperse a mob."

This is as true of China to-day as it was forty years ago, the habits of a people which have formed themselves through the centuries of weak government are, of course, not to be eradicated in a generation, but the dangerous point exemplified in the recent riot at Shanghai is that the official classes themselves, to whom is entrusted the good order of the state, are as liable as the people to the influence of the disease. In Shanghai the merchants and shopkeepers whose property was at stake readily joined in the efforts to prevent disorder, which was as resolutely fanned by the very class whose business it was to keep the peace. That the movement did not spontaneously spring up within the limits of the Settlements is clearly proved by the very curious fact that the first attempted attack of the rioters was, not on the Police Cells where it might be supposed the prisoners were confined, but on the British Supreme Court Jail where, of course, British subjects only are interned; and the still more curious fact that on being informed of this mistake, the ringleader instantly ordered his men to

move on to the Police Station. The Magistrate, Mr. KWAN, a totally untrained officer, had in fact been retained in office against several protests of the local officials, Consular as well as Municipal, with whom his ignorance of affairs, as well as his defects of temper, had from time to time caused friction. Removed for a time by the TAOTAI, the chief Chinese official in the district, he was to the surprise of all sent back to the post a few days before the trouble, evidently with a grievance brewing. When therefore the BRITISH ASSESSOR in a case where on one side or other there had been a manifest tampering with justice, directed the Police to detain the prisoners, pending a remand till the next day, in the Municipal lock-up, he did no more than was customary. If the MAGISTRATE actually on the bench had felt aggrieved, it was quite open to him to protest. Instead of this simple course he ordered the runners of the Court, probably neither better nor worse than the usual run of their class, to take the prisoners. A more deliberate insult to the ASSESSOR, and through him to the CONSUL whom he represented, could scarcely have been conceived. Bad as was this, it was outdone by what followed. The TAOTAI, who had already gained for himself a personal reputation for want of tact and discretion, and whose rule has been marked by more friction than had fallen to the lot of all his predecessors combined, instead of a judicious protest made his appeal to the wire-pullers of the late boycott. The merchants carefully kept aloof, and it was plain that nothing was to be done in the Settlement, so outside aid was procured, with the result that for three days the Settlement, wherein is conducted the trade of one of the most important ports in the world, was thrown into confusion. Fortunately, unlike the rest of China, here exists "the force of restraint" desiderated by the writer whom we have quoted at some length, and the only people to be injured were those who were caught red-handed amongst the rioters.

The lesson is instructive. China is yet far off that ideal state in which she can be safely trusted to take care of herself, and her officials are too untrained, and too much afflicted with the disease of swarmery, to be entrusted with the interests of a great port.

CHINESE LABOUR AND TRANSVAAL PROSPERITY.

(Daily Press 28th December.)

If, as has been said, the central problem of the Transvaal is economic—the restoration and development of its main source of wealth, on which the progress of the rural districts and the general growth of population depend,—then we shall be able to disentangle the vexed question of coolie labour from many of its embarrassing relatives, and be the sooner able to appreciate the importance of the news which was telegraphed to us the other day; that the new British Government proposes to stop at once the supply of coolie labour to South Africa. We need not then consider whether the Chinese emigrant makes a good or a bad bargain; and we can certainly dissociate the subject from any party question whatever. It becomes a purely national issue, not even international; for no one will admit that the supply of labour can be divorced from the supply of ore. From an authoritative account of the Witwatersrand beds, which since they were first worked in 1887 have produced a total of more than £126,000,000 worth of ore, we note that the ore is essentially of a low grade, averaging 42s. 11d. per ton, mined at a working cost

of 30s. 11d., which leaves 12s. per ton as net profit. The value is low as compared with the 140s. per ton of Kalgoorlie and the 205s. of Nevada, while, owing to the nature of the formation, the working expenses are higher than anywhere else in the world. The industry must of necessity be a delicately organized one, with a narrow margin between success and failure. Hence the question of labour is all important, for however economical the management and elaborate the labour-saving appliances, a certain amount of human labour is indispensable. It is Chinese labour which has set agoing the wheels of industry, and other classes of labour have since come forward to help to keep them revolving. It is not that white men could not do the work (although that has been alleged) but because it seemed desirable to avoid the creation of a class of "mean whites" who would lower the prestige so essential to the holding of the land. The Attorney-General of the Transvaal, Sir RICHARD SOLOMON, has submitted figures, quoted by Mr. BALFOUR, which show that too much has been made of the criminality of Chinese labourers. The number of serious crimes following their advent was proportionately infinitesimal; the number of labourers who had committed offences entailing more than six months' imprisonment amounted only to the minute total of one-seventh of one per cent. In the matter of desertions the figure is still more microscopic, for on the day in September when the ATTORNEY-GENERAL spoke only 257 out of 45,000 coolies were absent—or eleven-eightieths of one per cent. Of the absentees nearly half were found within five days. There are no figures available for the comparison, but it seems safe to say that under the KRUGER regime, desertion and crime among Kaffir labour would be much more in evidence, had there been political necessity for raking up and massing such evidence.

It appears, however, that the most important reason adduced for the threatened action is the alleged economic failure of the experiment. There were promises, perhaps too lavish, that white labour would benefit rather than suffer by the introduction of Chinese labour, as white labours in old California undoubtedly benefited by it. The answer is that just as white labour was at first only enabled to exist by the presence of Chinese labour in the Californian mining fields, so it has been lately at Johannesburg. On the resumption of industry after the war the white population flocked back to Johannesburg, not all, by any means, to engage in work belonging to the mines, but all without exception to engage in business which can only be carried on if the mines are in full working. Coloured labour was then defective, and if the shortage had not been made up, by Chinese as well as Kaffirs, it is pointed out that the white population would have had to go. They are able to stay because coloured labour on the mines has been largely increased. Of this increase, therefore, a large proportion must be reckoned as simply enabling the white men whom, in Lord MILNER'S words, "the mining industry provides with a livelihood indirectly," to subsist in Johannesburg. It must be written off, so to speak, against this white population; and only when that has been done can we begin to talk with any fairness or accuracy about comparing the increase in the coloured unskilled labour and the white skilled labour which is actually employed in the mines. Then the opponents of the experiment have seized upon the fact that the Transvaal revenue has been falling since the war. The Times

answers them very plausibly, and we cannot do better than quote. "Customs duties and railway rates between them practically make up the revenue of the Transvaal. The reason why the revenue was higher immediately after the war than it is now was because Johannesburg was then heavily importing all the equipment needed for restarting industry, and this equipment consisted of articles paying both the duties and the rates. The reason why the revenue has fallen since is because the shops are full, and there is no longer the same import of dutiable articles. The question of a rise or fall in the white population has nothing whatever to do with this fall in the revenue." Company directors, if nobody else—and after all they should know what they are talking about—have declared that the Transvaal is now prospering. The Chairman of the Consolidated Investment Company is reported to have spoken most optimistically to his constituents, and attributed the "all-round advance" to the presence of the Chinese. If a man convinced against his will be of the same opinion still, however, it is hopeless to convince the radical reformers against their convictions. If the Chinaman has to come home again, at the instance of his tender-hearted friends, it is almost certain they will get no gratitude from him in general.

THE YELLOW RIVER BRIDGE.

(Daily Press 29th December.)

We have had the benefit of a conversation with a gentleman who recently paid a visit to the great bridge which carries the Lu-han railway over the Yellow River, and while he modestly disclaimed the right to pass opinion on its construction, he admitted having gathered the impression that there was sufficient ground for the reports as to its instability. Unlike some others whose experiences have been angrily ventilated in the press, he was courteously given permission to cross the bridge. He did go part of the way, and then found that the "water jumps" were wider and more formidable than he cared to essay, although his coolies seemed willing enough to proceed. He turned back, and crossed the river by boat. This meant weary walking first through shifting sand, and a six hours struggle with a torrential current. It appears that while a gaily decorated train did cross the bridge at the official opening, as mentioned in our telegrams at the time, it was a special train in a special sense; and that the feat has not been permitted since. It would, perhaps, be possible to be too severe upon the engineers of this longest bridge in the world for if former prophecies are taken into account, they may fairly claim to have achieved the impossible. They were warned that the project was an impossible one; their answer is a bridge in being, even though it may not be thoroughly trustworthy. So far as we can ascertain, however, the bridge builders are in a distinctly meeker frame of mind now than they were when the critics first began to pick holes in their work. They are not so cocksure that they know all that the Yellow River is capable of; and have even got to the stage of admitting that in the event of an abnormal but not impossible rise, it may be necessary to re-build! This, if it should be necessary, will be a sad blow to the railway, and to the Chinese conception of foreign works. Of course the Peking-Hankow railway, even without the bridge, is a distinct gain; but with a successful transit of the Yellow River, it would be an object lesson

that would remove for all time any doubts as to what China most needs in the way of modern appliances. It may be supposed that men capable of such a stupendous enterprise should be trusted to go carefully into all the conditions awaiting or likely to await their work; but not even the best men are infallible, and the Yellow River is an extraordinary river, more full of surprises than a woman, and no man can claim to know what it will or will not do. The builders of this marvellous bridge knew that the bed of the river was a sort of quicksand; in the method they adopted to arrive at stable foundations, they committed themselves to a diagnosis, so to speak, which has since turned out to have been erroneous. As the work went on, the weakest spots became more apparent, and the engineers practically admitted that the river had been too much for them when they adopted the expedient of piling bags of stone around certain threatened supports. The same supports are still behaving in a way that excites continued suspicion; and there are those who prophesy that the cure (the stone ballast) will be worse than the disease. An extra rise of the river, it is said, will take those bags of stone, and find them useful as a battering ram. Further measures are being taken to make the bridge safe, but it is evident that all are of an experimental nature; and the spring behaviour of the Yellow River will be awaited with much anxiety.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 27th December at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present: Dr. W. W. Pearse, M.O.H., Dr. Macfarlane, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Mr. H. E. Pollock, Major Josling, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

RESIGNATIONS.

Mr. POLLOCK said he had an announcement which he made with some regret. It was that that would be the last meeting at which he would have the pleasure of sitting at that board. His experience during the past nearly three years at that board had been a very pleasant one and he had learned a great many things which were useful to him and which he hoped would be of profit to him on the Council on which he was shortly to take his place. He would only say in conclusion that he desired to express his sense of the very great courtesy which he had at all times received from the members of this Board (applause).

Mr. RUMJAHN said he also had an announcement to make. That was the last meeting of the Board he would attend and following Mr. Pollock he had determined to send in his resignation. He did so with regret. It had always been a pleasant duty to give his time to the service of the public, and he thanked the members for the courtesy they had always shown him. He had had many pleasant times with them, and it was with regret he resigned his position.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure he was expressing the feelings of the members when he said how extremely sorry they were to lose Mr. Pollock and Mr. Rumjahn. They had been towers of strength to the Board in many cases of difficulty, and they could hardly hope that as good men would take their places. In the case of Mr. Pollock they knew of his promotion and that they did not begrudge him. They knew a busy professional man could not spare time to attend many of their meetings. Although their work did not bulk largely in the public eye—it was done behind the screens, in committee and by circulating papers—there was no question that to do the work a member of the Board must devote very much more time than could be spared by a busy professional man.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN, pursuant to notice of motion, asked the following questions:—(1) What is the reason for the present scarcity of lymph in the Colony, and when will there be a sufficient supply? (2) Why, since the introduction of the rider-main system, have the occupiers of upper floors not been getting sufficient water for potable purposes.

The CHAIRMAN said—In reply to the first question I may say that the temporary scarcity of lymph in the colony is due to the fact that sufficient number of buffalo calves cannot be obtained. Butchers say they are not allowed to export buffalo calves from China. Every effort is being made to obtain a sufficient supply from the New Territory, and if these efforts fail a supply to meet all demands will be purchased from Saigon and Shanghai. In reply to the second question he stated—The ridermain system is under the control of the Director of Public Works and I am unable therefore to answer the question but if you will furnish him with specific instances of a deficiency of water on upper floors due to this system every effort will, I am sure, be made to remedy the defect.

INSUFFICIENT WINDOW AREA.

The owner of house No. 103 Wanchai Road applied for exemption from providing the rooms on the first and second floors with additional window area as required by the Board's notice. He said the house was a Chinese mansion, and in addition to the front windows had windows leading into the yard and side lanes. It was only occupied by a small family, and any alteration would spoil its original design.

The Hon. REGISTRAR-GENERAL minuted—Is this a private house? If so it should be treated more leniently than one let out in tenements.

The M.O.H. minuted—Since the application came in the owner has made some alterations whereby two front rooms on the ground floor have sufficient window area. There remain certain other rooms which have too little window area; these windows are, as regards the front rooms, of ornamental design. I suggest the following:—Pass the three front rooms on the first floor. Allow the rooms at the rear of the yard to be occupied only if the owner will throw them all into one. Pass the three front rooms of the second floor: the central rear room should be lit by a skylight, and the two small rooms at the west side of the central room should have their windows enlarged. All the other rooms in the house should be used only as stores, etc., not for sleeping in.

The suggestions of the M.O.H. were adopted.

CHINESE FOODS AND MEDICINES.

The proprietor of No. 1 Queen's Road West applied for permission to sell meat other than that sold at a public market.

Mr. RUMJAHN minuted—I think a licence for the sale of venison only should be granted.

Mr. POLLOCK minuted—I have never seen dog and cat meat sold publicly here yet. It is not common food amongst the Chinese. If the veterinary surgeon does not recommend the issue of a licence for selling venison the applicant should be so informed. But I see no objection, as I understand no venison is sold in the western or Sai Ying Pun markets.

The VETERINARY SURGEON in a minute said:—I think venison is an article of food usually sold in a public market. During the winter season deer are regularly sold in the central market. With regard to the sale of dog, cat and badger meat, etc., I would suggest that a licence be issued to him for meat "other than that sold in a public market." There is a demand for these dainties which are not in themselves unwholesome and it would be better that the sale of them be conducted in an open and above-board manner. At the present time they are smuggled.

The Hon. REGISTRAR-GENERAL asked—Are deer and badger or cats articles of food usually sold in a public market? Should this man apply for a licence?

The M.O.H. minuted—I should think that very little venison or cat flesh is sold here at all, but if this man is going to make a habit of selling these articles it would be preferable to compel him to be licensed.

The VETERINARY SURGEON reported—Deer are regularly sold in the central market; badger I have not seen sold; cat is often sold, the most common place being up in the neighbourhood of the Chinese recreation ground. I am told, however, that cat is not sold so much as a food as a thing in the nature of medicine. It would be better, I think, to have the applicant in some way licensed, though I do not think for the sale of badger or cat there is any provision made in Ordinance I. of 1903. Cats, snakes, porcupines, dogs, etc., are all used in much the same way, each good for some particular sickness. Provided the shop is used only for the sale of these articles I think the man might be allowed to sell under a licence and no fee exacted.

The application was granted.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 23rd December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A LAND SALE.

Leung Hung brought an action against Pang Chiu Ngo and another to recover \$11,718.32, being the amount of purchase money for a piece of landed property in the New Territory sold by plaintiff to defendant in January 1901. Mr. M. W. Shade appeared for plaintiff but as defendants did not enter an appearance, judgment was given for plaintiff with costs.

27th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A CROSS-ACTION.

The case was concluded in which Ching Kwai Wan, trader, claimed from Leung Wai Ting, alias Chin Chin Tong, the sum of \$90, being balance due on account of medicine pills sold and delivered.

In the cross-action the previous defendant claimed from the plaintiff the sum of \$50, money lent.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro represented the plaintiff in the first action and the defendant in the second, while Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the defendant in the first and the plaintiff in the second.

In giving judgment his Lordship said the two stories told him were absolutely irreconcilable. Both were made up with the greatest care, but one of them was wrong. Ching Kwai Wan's story was that he sold a box of pills for \$140, received \$50 on account, and was now claiming for the balance of \$90. The receipt he gave for the \$50 was on account of pills. Leung Wai Ting's story was that he, or somebody else, brought \$200 from Canton for the purchase of arms to take into the interior of China, to be used, his Lordship presumed, against the authorities. Wing said that after a time the transactions fell through and he came to Hongkong to reclaim the \$200. He was then told that \$100 had been paid back; later another \$50 was paid, leaving \$50 due for which the plaintiff was suing. Of the two stories one was a pure fabrication, and his trouble was to say which was. Both as they stood were equally possible, but were there any outside circumstances to make the leaning one way or the other? He did not think the plaintiff in the cross-action came here to talk about rifles without there being something in it. With regard to the pill story he was against it. If the defendant paid for pills the receipt would have said something about it, but it was for money. That was in favour of the rifle story, and judgment would therefore be for the plaintiff, Leung Wai Ting, with costs.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly & Potts received from Shanghai the following telegram:—Messrs. S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Company, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of Tls. 4 per share payable on the 6th January, 1906. The transfer books will be closed on the 2nd proximo."

COMPANIES.

SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG
DYEING AND CLEANING CO.

The third general meeting of the Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd., was held at the premises of the National Bank of China, Ltd. Mr. G. C. Moxon presided on December 27th, when the others present were:—Messrs. J. F. Wright, E. D. Haskell and Chan Ki Pan.

The CHAIRMAN said:—The report and accounts having now been in your hands for some days I will with your permission, take them as read. It is with much regret I have again to lay before you a balance sheet showing a loss on working account. We have, however, suffered a great deal from unavoidable misfortune during the past year. Our British superintendent and our British foreman both died suddenly in the summer and their deaths involved the works in considerable loss both directly and indirectly. They were both excellent workmen and from every point of view their decease is to be greatly deplored. With regard to the future I think I may say that after an exhaustive trial it has been fully demonstrated that what I would term the garment or domestic trade does not pay us if unsupported by other work. There is not enough of it to allow us to work at a profit. Could we obtain more work without sensibly increasing our standard charges I do not think there is any doubt but that we could run at a profit. With this point in view your Directors have decided to make a new departure and to seek an enlarged field in the dyeing and finishing of piece goods—silk and cotton. The necessary machinery has been imported and installed and is at this moment, I hope, actually working; my last communication from the works advised that all was ready to commence. Signs are not lacking that there is scope for a large trade in this piece goods business, and I trust that the next report may bear out the hopes of your management and may reward your disappointment in the past. The figures now before you will show you that we have been forced to borrow considerably in order to meet the loss we have sustained in course of working and to provide the works with the staff and machinery necessary to give them the opportunity to continue with reasonable hope of success. I think there is nothing I can usefully add. I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put.

There were no questions and the report was adopted, while the confirmation of Yuen Sing's appointment to the directorate was carried on the motion of Mr. Moxon, seconded by Mr. Haskell.

There was no other business.

THE EWO COTTON SPINNING
AND WEAVING CO., LD.

DIRECTORAL PLURALITY.

The tenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., was held at Messrs. Jardine, Matheson's Shanghai offices on Dec. 16th. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. A. McLeod, P. F. Lavers, Ze Quay-ying (Directors), W. C. Murray, Dr. N. Macleod, J. Kerfoot, J. C. Hanson, E. R. Morris, G. Butler, J. J. Dunne, Ching Yue, Yuen Cheong, and J. McKie (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen.—The audited accounts of the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., for the year ending October 31st, 1905, and brief report accompanying it, have been in the hands of shareholders for the prescribed period of 14 days, and with your permission we will now adopt the usual form of procedure and accept them as read.

At our last Annual General Meeting on December 23rd, 1904, it was announced to shareholders by my predecessor as Chairman of the Consulting Committee, that prospects for the year under notice were good, and that statement has been fully justified by our being able to submit to you to-day a better result than has been achieved since the mill started working.

This exceptionally satisfactory result of our working is not in any measure caused by a departure from the policy we have previously adopted of endeavouring to buy cotton and sell yarn simultaneously and so secure a certainty of a profit—there has been no speculative feature in our operations—but what we have been able to avail of was the advantage of an unusually active demand for coarse cloths, exceeding the supply of imported goods and largely increasing the number of native hand looms and thereby consuming a greater weight of locally and native made yarns.

Cotton prices at the beginning of our financial year ruled high, but the crop being not only a big one, but a good one—and large growths almost invariably are good ones—resulted in a decline of quite ten per cent from the opening when it was apparent in the summer months that an increased acreage had been put under cultivation.

In April the margin of profit we were making on forward sales of yarn suggested the advisability of working the mill night and day, and although considerable difficulties in the matter of labour had to be overcome, our Manager, Mr. Kerfoot, was equal to the occasion, and results warrant the departure which continues to-day with an ample supply of capable hands, enabling us to maintain two full shifts.

Turning to the accounts, I feel sure that the shareholders will appreciate the conservative policy of your committee in recommending as a dividend only a small percentage of earnings, but yet giving a return of sixteen per cent on share value. The transfer to a new account of Tls. 100,000 makes provision for rainy days, and the sum of Tls. 45,939.90 placed against renewals and repairs account is more prudent than ordinarily necessary, because in his annual report, our mill manager writes that "the machinery has been overhauled and is in good condition." This statement is supported by the fact that we have spent in renewals and repairs this year, Tls. 19,675, as against Tls. 10,245 during 1904, and another satisfactory feature in the account assisting the credit balance shown is that the debit entry for interest incurred is Tls. 20,000 less than last year.

In view of the excited state of American cotton markets, and the unusually far forward engagements of manufacturers in Lancashire and American mills, the future of our industry is shrouded in uncertainties, but it may satisfy you to know that the production of the Ewo Mill is sold at good, night and day working, profits for four months of our new financial year. (Hear, hear.)

Before submitting to you the formal resolution that the report and accounts as published, and now in your hands, be passed, I shall be very pleased to reply to any question the shareholders may ask me.

Mr. BUTLER—I have no doubt, Mr. Chairman, you can give a satisfactory answer, but I shall be glad if you will tell us why this amount of Tls. 45,939.90 was not deducted before from the gross amount instead of it being called net profits? Ought not that item of Tls. 45,939.90 to have been deducted first; you say you charge commission on it.

The CHAIRMAN—That item of Tls. 45,939.90 is part of the total profit on the year. The general managers are entitled to commission on the total profits. It seems to me that it does not matter what account you put it to, to either the repairs and renewals account or to any other account, but it is part of the net profits of the year.

Mr. BUTLER—I have no doubt you are correct, This report no doubt has been before the directors who passed it with their approval?

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly.

Mr. A. McLEOD—I don't think Mr. Butler exactly understands. This Tls. 45,000 odd is to provide for future repairs.

Mr. BUTLER—Oh yes, I see that.

Mr. McLEOD—The repairs as you will see have already been debited to the profit and loss account in the sum of Tls. 19,675.22, and this sum is to provide for future repairs; it might be put to the reserve fund or anything else.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Mr. McLEOD seconded, and the resolution was carried.

Mr. J. J. DUNNE proposed the re election of the retiring Consulting Committee.

Mr. W. C. MURRAY seconded.

Mr. BUTLER said—On this I should like to make one or two remarks. It has been my conviction for a good many years past that the Directors of the companies in Shanghai are, and have been, largely overpaid. I will admit that there are companies in Shanghai in which a considerable amount of work devolves on the directors, but these companies are an exception, and in the majority of the companies the work of the directors is practically a sinecure. I think it might be interesting, and perhaps a little instructive, if we were to contrast what this company has done for the individual shareholder and for the directors. I have been a shareholder in this Company from its installation. I believe, if my memory serves me correctly, that for the first year or half year, I don't remember which, a dividend was paid, but since then we shareholders have looked in vain for a return on our money. On the contrary we have seen our capital written down by 50 per cent. That is one side of the question. Let us see what it has done for the directors. During the same period they have each taken, not out of the profits but out of the capital of the Company, Tls. 10,000, and I say this is monstrous. The consciences of the directors must be as elastic as their pockets to enable them to do so. But that is not all. I find the same directors appearing in nearly every other company in Shanghai. I think I might safely say that perhaps with the exception of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank scrip, I don't possess a single share certificate that doesn't bear the names Mr. Alexander McLeod and Mr. W. D. Little. There is one company, if I may use such an expression, where their names do not appear; I refer to the Municipal Council, but in one case there is very little to do and ample remuneration, and in the other there is plenty of hard work and no pecuniary reward. The inference is, to my mind, obvious and that if these gentlemen study their own interests rather than the interests of the company, in fact I am forced to the conclusion that they are what we may call professional directors; I think in London they would be known by another name. I am not going to propose any revolutionary resolution. I am simply going to make a suggestion, and that is that the directors should voluntarily reduce the amount of their remuneration from Tls. 1,000 to Tls. 500 and I am convinced that it would work much better. I think I had better not wait and hear any discussion on my suggestion.

Mr. BUTLER then took up his hat and coat.

The CHAIRMAN: I don't quite know. Mr. Butler, why you have taken upon yourself to make these remarks. There is one point on which I should like to correct you without referring at all to the attacks you have made upon the directors of the various Shanghai companies. You say the directors of this company receive Tls. 1,000 per annum. That is not a correct statement. The remuneration is Tls. 750.

Mr. BUTLER—I apologise for that.

The CHAIRMAN—I think you will admit that any man that works has to be paid.

Mr. BUTLER—Fully.

The CHAIRMAN—And so far as the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. is concerned it has received from the members of the Consulting Committee good work, and I do not think that the public of Shanghai will consider the remuneration of Tls. 750 in any way excessive. As far as your attacks on the other directors of the various other Shanghai companies are concerned it doesn't devolve on me to defend them. I think that is all I have to say.

Mr. BUTLER—I am sorry to say I cannot agree with you. The directors of this Company have neither the technical or practical knowledge necessary to run a cotton mill and therefore there only remains the supervision of accounts and I cannot see that that is worth Tls. 750 a year.

Mr. McLEOD—There is a slight other mistake also in your remarks, Mr. Butler; you certainly made an inference which is not borne out. You referred to me as being a director of a great many companies; I admit it. There are a good many directorships which I would willingly give up, but I am elected by the shareholders and I am bound to serve. Then you say I do

nothing on the Municipal Council; well I have served for many years—

Mr. BUTLER—Not recent years.

Mr. McLEOD—I was Vice-chairman of the Municipal Council only three years ago and I have served not one but for five or six years. It is absolutely indifferent to me what remarks you make about me.

Mr. BUTLER then left the room.

The resolution was then put and carried.

Mr. HANSON proposed and Mr. E. R. MORRIS seconded the re-election of Mr. Wingrove as auditor.—Carried.

The CHAIRMAN announced that dividend warrants would be posted on Monday, and the meeting terminated.

WEIHAIWEI GOLD MINING CO., LD.

Mr. W. Denham Verschoyle, the retiring manager of these mines, has just presented a long report, and some calculations to show that the profit on every hundred tons of ore treated by outside smelters should be \$145.05. He recommends the new management to cut down every cent of unnecessary expense and to work the lowest grade ore that will yield a profit. He says:—"In conclusion I would say that whilst I have been unable to give the full details that would be possible in another three months, I think that sufficient has been written to show that I have confidence in the future of the mine. There is rich ore in the mine but as a whole it is a low grade proposition and must be handled as such. As to reserves it is well to remember that whilst they are still small, nine months ago there were none at all, and the work which is necessary to open up more is already well advanced."

The Chairman (Mr. E. S. Little) said:—Some shareholders had said: 'If the mine is going to be a success how is it that Mr. Verschoyle is going to leave when it has reached its most prosperous time?' The answer to that was perfectly simple. When Mr. Verschoyle accepted the position of mine manager he said he did not care for the humdrum work of mining, but, like a Doctor, he was interested in the case until he had brought out the mystery of it and then he was less interested in the work. That was how Mr. Verschoyle approached this mine and how he felt over the matter now; he did not care for the humdrum work of mining. There had been a mystery in their mine, which mystery he had brought to light and he proved that they had every reasonable chance of success."

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Dec. 24.

CHINESE BOYS' BRIGADE.

The educational department has notified all the local military and civil colleges that they are to send their scholars to the parade ground near the Koon Yung Shan on the first of January, 1906, for a grand parade. All the schools were practising drill to compete for prizes. Some Chinese Kipling has perhaps urged the desirability of teaching the young idea how to shoot.

PROPOSED BRIDGE ON THE CANTON RIVER.

A merchant recently memorialized Viceroy Shum asking for the privilege of constructing a bridge across the Canton river. He sets forth that owing to the reclamation works, the river has been considerably narrowed and the currents have consequently become stronger. Accidents are numerous and the petitioner believes that the bridge would be largely used by the public. A plan has been submitted to the Viceroy showing that the place selected is at the rocks near Hoi-chi (Dutch folly). These rocks would offer excellent foundations on which the supporting piers could be erected. The Viceroy has not yet given a reply.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The Canton-Hankow railway having been resumed by the Chinese Government, funds for its construction are reported now to have been raised in the three provinces of Kwang-tung, Hunan, and Hupeh. Work is expected to be soon resumed on this important line.

A WEALTHY CORPORATION: FOOLS' MONEY.

Owing to scarcity of funds in the Provincial

coffers, the Treasury officials have asked the Yu Yuen Lottery Co. to advance the sum of \$500,000. This the Company repeatedly refused, but has finally decided to advance \$300,000. This Lottery Company is in a flourishing condition as it is supposed to make an average monthly profit of \$90,000 in the handling of the Po Pin lotteries and another \$10,000 monthly on the San Pin lotteries. The Company has revenues from other minor lotteries.

27th December.

KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY.

It is reported that the Wai Wu Pu has sent a despatch to Viceroy Shum urging him to start a subscription to raise funds for the construction of the Kowloon-Canton railway, that British and Chinese may simultaneously start work on their respective sections.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce moved into their new premises in the Ngan-Kun-Kai on the 26th inst., when a grand banquet was held at which the leading merchants and gentry were invited.

CHINESE IN JAPAN.

Many Chinese students have returned here from Japan by recent steamers. They report that the students are gradually all leaving on account of the new regulations which they say restrict their liberty. The first batch of the gentry which recently left Canton has now reached Yokohama but will not proceed further. The second batch which was to proceed shortly has postponed its departure.

CHRISTMAS.

The sports arranged for Xmas day by the officers of the American gunboats have been postponed to January 1st owing to the bad weather. Xmas day was a very wet one, with thunder storms. The weather was the worst that we have had yet.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

27th December.

THE DYING YEAR.

A.D. 1905 is nearly expired, and I do not think the Government of this moribund city can look back on it with any pride. No improvement of any kind has been made; things are as they were at the end of 1904. When will the promoters of the welfare of this colony wake up from their long sleep? When the year began, the inhabitants of Macao were on the tiptoe of expectation for the projected Macao-Canton railway, and although the Chinese capital has been subscribed, nothing has apparently been done by the Portuguese syndicate, and unless some efforts are made now to push the scheme forward, it will soon be like the others that have died of inanition. The electric light so long expected here is also not yet in a working condition. Posts have been fixed up in various parts of the city for months past, some of them are beginning to get rusty; still we have no better illuminant than the antediluvian kerosene lamps. The harbour work, which caused such a flutter a couple of years ago, is not heard of any more, and probably will never be carried through. Poor Macao! The only energy apparent during the year has been that of the earthquake demon, and even he has not managed to shake our officials out of their somnolency.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

The Christmas Tree entertainment at the Club proved, as I anticipated, an immense success. There were about 200 children present and also a large number of amahs. The children were all very much delighted with the treat extended to them by the members of the club. The Commissioner of Lappa Customs (Mr. Brennan) also entertained a large number of children and their parents at his residence on Saturday. The weather during the holidays was simply wretched; rain came down in torrents, much to the disgust of the pleasure seekers. Thunder and heavy rains are unusual at this time of the year.

THE GUNBOAT "RIO LIMA."

Better late than never. Our only gunboat the Rio Lima received orders to proceed to Shanghai to protect the Portuguese subjects

in that settlement, and left last week after docking at Aberdeen Dock.

CHINESE MILITARY MANOEUVRES.

Big Military Manoeuvres by Chinese recruits took place last Sunday on the ground between Passaleão and Chinsan. These recruits were trained by Japanese instructors, and from what I heard they acquitted themselves very well, and the manoeuvres were declared successful. Too successful, some of us think.

THE LINCHOW AFFAIR.

CHINESE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

[FROM OUR CANTON CORRESPONDENT.]

The following is a translation of the joint report sent to Viceroy Shum by the Chinese Members of the Commission of Enquiry that sat at Linchow, viz., Cheung Wan Yee (prefect) Ting Ping Lau (sub-prefect of A-chow) Tang Cheuk Thong (present prefect of Linchow), and Shum Lun Shen (the cashiered prefect of Linchow).

We have already reported to you our arrival at Linchow and the aspects of the case. From investigations we have discovered that the origin of the Linchow massacre was through the celebration of the Ta-chin festival at the Chan-Loong temple by the people of the Choi-Yuen-Pa village who had gathered there to propitiate the Gods so as to obtain a good harvest. Dr. Machle protested that a portion of the matshed erected for the festival was encroaching on land belonging to the Mission and took away three small cannon by way of retaliation. The village considered that portion of land as the public property of the village. They state that without any provocation whatever, Dr. Machle insulted the villagers by taking away the Ta-chin cannons. This act, according to the deeply religious people, meant bad luck for them. The village people grew very angry and demanded repeatedly from Dr. Machle that the cannons should be returned to them; but this the Dr. refused to do. The people then went to the hospital to search for the cannon themselves and in so doing came across preserved foetus which they thought to be infants murdered by Dr. Machle. Then the people's anger knew no bounds and was impossible to suppress. Cries came from ten thousand mouths, and suddenly the matter developed into a serious affair. From careful and minute enquiries made, we are of opinion that the affair happened all of a sudden and was not premeditated and there is, therefore, no ring-leader in the affair. The ignorant people of the village thought they were justified in taking revenge. Consequently they did not loot any of the buildings but burnt them down. The ignorant people of the village having let loose their anger, this serious case resulted. For the crimes committed they deserve capital punishment, but they deserve on the other hand pity and sympathy on account of their ignorance. Now Wen Taotai and your humble servants have separated the criminals and have questioned them separately.

This case being an international affair we dare not be too lenient. At the same time we must take into consideration that it is also a matter with reference to the feelings and beliefs of the general public, and owing to this we cannot be too severe with the criminals.

During the last ten days your humble servants have been considering over this matter night and day and have taken great pains to question and examine the criminals, and have called on the virtuous gentry and respectable witnesses to appear before us to testify. The measure of the crimes committed by those concerned has been clearly discovered and proved. Amongst the criminals there were three, namely: Hung-Ah-shun, Tang-Koon-see, and Leong-Ah-kam, who confessed that they threw a European into the river and used weapons such as pitchforks and spears with which they stabbed them until they were drowned.

At that time the people that had collected together were like a swarm of bees or a heap of ants. The people all acted together and it was impossible to make out who struck the first, the second, or the fatal blow that wounded or killed. It was very difficult to measure the

crime and mete out a punishment in proportion as one would in an ordinary case. These three criminals who were the principal actors have confessed that they committed the murders and it has been conclusively proved that they did. We sent your Excellency a telegram praying that instructions may be sent so as to cause them to be beheaded as a caution to others, to deter them from committing such dreadful deeds.

Tang-Lo-chat and Lo-Tak-Koon, two elders of the village, were members of the committee for the Ta-chin Worshipping Festival. Although they did not encourage nor direct the people to commit the deeds, they did not attempt to restrain the men and allowed them to perpetrate such deeds. We beg your Excellency to order that Tang-Lo-chat be sentenced to five years' imprisonment; and Lo-Tak Koon to three years' as he voluntarily surrendered himself. Shum-Ying-Foong and Shing On both followed the mob to the Loong Tam temple but did not take a hand in the murder. Mang-Lew-tsang denied that he was the man who first set fire to the hospital but from the investigation we discovered that he was present and took part in the riot. We beg your Excellency to sentence them to five years' imprisonment each. Au-Yeong Kin took the Europeans to the Loong Tam temple to hide themselves and demanded money for his trouble and it was stated that he afterwards informed the mob of their hiding place, but this was not proved. We ask your Excellency to sentence him to three years' imprisonment. Leung-Kwai-chow denied calling the people to arms by beating the gong but it has been proved that he was present at the riot. Leong-Ah-Wing confessed to being present amongst the mob but denied taking part in the affair. These two prisoners should be sentenced to one year's imprisonment. A monk named Nam Siu demanded a reward for allowing the Loong Tam temple to shelter the fugitives. We ask your Excellency to sentence him to six months' imprisonment and to compel him to become a layman again at the expiration of his sentence. Lew Ah Kee, Lew Sheung Nin, Cheong Ah Kwong, Lew Ah Shet, Lew Ah Foon, Tang Ah Fat and Wong Ah Fat were all present at the riot but there is no proof that they participated. We beg your Excellency to leave it to our discretion to have some of them flogged and others put in the cage to be publicly exhibited as their offence is a light one. The rest of them, Lew Chiu Kwan, Wong Tai Choi, Wong Ah Hin, Wong Shek Kee, Lew Ah Wan, Law Cheong Ching, Lew Ah Chan, Lew Ah Sing and others were arrested by mistake and have been immediately released. Besides these, the Linchow prefect has been instructed to offer rewards for the arrest of any criminals that may have absconded; who will then be tried and punished. It is our duty to forward your Excellency this petition reporting to you the result of our investigation, and the punishment we intend to give the prisoners. We await your Excellency's instructions to teach us how to deal with the prisoners.

HOW THE LAND WAS BOUGHT.

From further enquiries made we discovered that the piece of land in dispute between Dr. Machle and the villagers belonged to the village people and was owned by them as common property. Doctor Machle had purchased it from some scoundrels of the village. No notice was posted to inform the public and the deed was not registered with the authorities. No boundary stones were placed to mark the limits of the ground. Now Dr. Machle claims the land to belong to the mission. This is very unreasonable and he took on himself to give a cause for the creation of the trouble which developed into the serious international affair now in question. It is our duty to include this in our report.

Peking report says that French offers of capital for railway and mining purposes have recently been made, and suggestions thrown out that China having already accepted British loans in connection with a railway closely connected with Hongkong, and therefore much more dangerous than the American line would have been, she can well afford to accept assistance "where the only object aimed at is a higher rate of interest than is possible at home."

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

THE VALUE OF DISCIPLINE.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with this college took place on the 22nd Dec, when H. E. the Governor presented successful students with the prizes won by them.

His Excellency arrived at the appointed hour, accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby, and amongst others present were: His Lordship Bishop Pozzoni, Mr. F. A. Irvine, Inspector of Schools, Mr. A. G. Romano, Consul for Portugal and Brazil.

Before the business of the day was proceeded with, His Excellency was given a display of the musical and theatrical abilities of the pupils. Masters R. Taylor, in a neatly prepared speech, thanked His Excellency and others for their attendance. The College choir sang the chorus "The Jolly Chafers," with an ability which bespoke many months of instruction. A hint, however, to the choir instructor, might not be out of place. If the choristers were prevented from vying with each other as to who should sing (or bawl) the loudest, the effect would be much more pleasing. Masters J. Tavares and P. Dupuy caused much amusement by the singing of "My Excellent Friend," and the college glee choir followed with the chorus "We love to sing our Merry Song." The comedy, "The Magic Lamp," was apparently much appreciated by those present. Master A. Wilson took the character of Aladdin, a boy of the period; Master P. Murray that of Mustafa, Aladdin's pretended uncle; Masters A. Baptista, F. Tavares and M. Nemaze were the companions of Aladdin. Master J. Tavares the Fairy of the Lamp, and Master R. Taylor, Aladdin's Mother. The programme concluded with the solo, "A Boy's best Friend is his Mother," which was sweetly sung by Master A. Baptista.

Brother Sylvester, the Director of the College, then read the annual report, partly as follows:—

In reviewing the scholastic year of 1903 I find there were 324 boys on the Register and of these 132 were newcomers. Our average daily attendance was 245.89 the highest attendance during the year being 288. The vast difference may be attributed to various causes:—Many Chinese boys come from different parts of the Colony and spend some days in the school after which they disappear without even saying good-bye. Among other classes of boys there seems to be no end to birthday festivals. One day it is the grandfather, another the grandmother, father, mother, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, all pass in turn, and of course the boys are required to enhance the solemnity. I think that parents who understand the importance that men of business and education attach to punctuality should insist on the children's adherence to the requirements of the school or college in which they place them. Permission of absence when asked for shall never be refused if sufficient reason is given for such an absence. It is very unpleasant when parents after keeping their children at home for a day or more, will simply give a scribble to the effect that the boys were absent with their consent, thus leading them on to a spirit of independence and insubordination which will inevitably characterize them in after years.

The Report of the Inspector of Schools was as follows:—

Discipline and Organization:—Good. Standard I. has been divided into two divisions in deference to H.E. the Governor's advice given at the last prize-giving, that particular attention should be paid to the beginners. I regret to say that nothing has been done to teach the Chinese their own language. Attention was drawn to this point in last year's report. One boy I questioned, a boy of about fifteen, did not know a single character. When a Chinese cannot read the simplest letter, notice or name over a shop, he cannot be called properly educated. For this reason I am unable to report that the organization is "thoroughly efficient."

In examinations time is wasted by copying out the questions and ruling unnecessary lines.

The boys frequently forget to put their names and the school at the top of their papers.

Sanitation:—The ventilation of the rooms seems now very satisfactory. Additional doors have been made so that it is not necessary any more to pass through one room to go to another.

Apparatus:—The maps in some of the rooms need renewing, especially those used by Standard II. Much new apparatus has, however, been bought recently. Slates should not be used above Standard III.

English, Colloquial:—The great majority of the boys are boarders and seem to learn to speak English by the natural process. Nevertheless their fluency should not blind the teachers to the fact that they constantly employ foreign idioms in their speech, and these constantly appear in their compositions even in the highest standards.

Reading:—Good.

Composition and Grammar:—A large proportion (17 boys out of 29) of Standard V. obtained less than 40 per cent of marks at examination. It would appear that promotion has been somewhat hurried. Standard VI. did better. Their composition was good on the whole, though the essays were lacking in matter. Half the standard got half marks or over, and two thirds over 40 per cent. There are only three boys in Standard VII. They did well in grammar but their compositions are not up to the mark.

Handwriting:—Deserves more attention. It is not good in the upper standards. In all English subjects it was noticeable that on the one hand the work was done very neatly and tidily, on the other hand the work of even the best boys of the upper standards was marred by absurd mistakes in grammar and spelling.

Geography: In the lower standards the local geography and the outlines of Asia were well known. Standard V. had too long and too wide a syllabus and failed badly at examination in consequence. Standard VI. on the contrary did very well. The whole standard obtained over 40 per cent. of marks, and 75 per cent. of the boys got over half marks. Standard VII. did well.

History. Is very well taught. Very intelligent answers were obtained in Standards VI. and VII. The papers taken as a whole show the boys have a real grasp of the subject. Standard V. again did not so well.

Mathematics:—One boy in Standard VII. Senior obtained full marks in papers set in arithmetic, algebra, and geometry—a remarkable performance. His work shows that the teaching must be excellent.

Arithmetic:—Standard I. have been doing mental arithmetic daily with very good results. Standards II. to VI. were rather disappointing. Common sense does not seem used enough, and very simple problems were found too difficult for solution. Standard V. were especially weak in the conversion of dollars into sterling and vice versa, in decimals, and their inability to use the unitary method in the solution of problems. In Standard VI. the work was neat and the methods were in most cases good. But there was a want of accuracy.

Algebra:—The subject is very well taught. More time might be given to the solution of problems.

Geometry:—Taken in Standard VII. Senior and Junior. In the Junior division the arguments were not written out as if the writers were altogether convinced of their truth.

Drawing:—A new subject. No great advance has been made with it so far. Excellent material have been procured, and it may be hoped that St. Joseph's may before many years produce draughtsmen of the quality it once used to do.

Hygiene:—Not begun.

Grant:—I recommend a grant at the rate of 30/-

In view of complying with the wishes of the Inspector of Schools, Chinese is taught in the College at present for one hour every school day. In addition to the above subjects we have established a shorthand class and a typewriting class, as also the teaching of book-keeping, mensuration, and the elements of vocal music. The results of the Oxford Local Examination were very good. We presented but one boy in the Senior and he succeeded very honourably. We presented three in the Junior and two succeeded. Eleven boys sat for the Preliminary and nine

succeeded, one of them coming out with third class honours and distinction in geography. I am glad to say that a good number of parents take a great interest in the weekly report. There are, however, some parents who do not prize it at its just value, and seem to ignore its existence. Our monthly and quarterly examinations continue to be held faithfully and the results are sent to the parents that they may see what their sons are doing and how they are conducting themselves. The boys of the college continue to take great interest in the inter-school games and sports. Unfortunately their play-ground is so limited that their success must naturally be far from satisfying their aspirations. Before concluding we have to make mention of the great loss our college has sustained by the death of the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, a most distinguished benefactor of this institution. We also have to lament the death of the Hon. E. R. Belilios, who was a signal benefactor of the college, and whose memory will always remain in connection with the school through the two scholarships he so benevolently founded for St. Joseph's College. I beg to tender my very sincere thanks to H. E. the Governor for so graciously consenting to present the prizes to the deserving boys of the school. I also sincerely thank His Lordship the Bishop who, notwithstanding his many calls, has so highly honoured us by his presence here to-day. I have also to thank Major-General Villiers Hatton, Mr. A. G. Romano, Consul for Portugal, Mr. J. J. Leiria, Vice Consul for Portugal, Major Pedley, Mr. Ho Tung, Messrs. Brewer & Co., Mr. Jose Machado, Mr. C. J. Goncalves, Mr. V. H. Deacon, and Mr. Anthony Shing Kee, for so generously contributing to our Prize Fund. I avail myself of the present occasion to offer my hearty good wishes to one and all for a very Merry Christmas and a thrice Happy New Year (applause).

His Excellency then presented the prizes, and it can safely be said that there was never a more expeditious presentation at any school in Hongkong, the arrangement made by the masters saving a great deal of time.

The Governor then said:—Rev. Father: The report of the Inspector of Schools is not entirely satisfactory and I trust his remarks will be considered with a view to obtaining an improvement in the coming year. The subjects which seem specially to require your care are correctness in English speaking and in grammar, clearness in handwriting and accuracy in arithmetic. I share the hope expressed by the Inspector that St. Joseph's College may soon again produce good draughtsmen, as I understand formerly was the case. I am disappointed that an earlier start was not made in the study of hygiene to which I attach a great deal of importance. I am not sure that you are entirely well advised to add the new subjects of shorthand, typewriting, and book-keeping to the curriculum of the College. Unless boys remain under instruction for longer than they do now the addition of new subjects will tend to lower the standard attained in the old ones. I have under consideration a scheme for evening classes at Queen's College, open to all, at which instruction will be given in subjects of use to boys going in for commercial or professional careers, and it may prove more advantageous for this and other schools to send their senior boys to these classes than to provide themselves tuition of the nature indicated. I congratulate the boy who obtained full marks in arithmetic, geometry and algebra, and shall be surprised if I do not hear more of him in the future. Boys—The Rev. Father complains of irregularity and unpunctuality in your attendance. I am sure that this irregularity must make it difficult for him to keep up a high standard in the College. It is also harmful to yourselves. The habits that you form here will be the habit that you will take with you through life. If you are unpunctual and irregular in your school career you will be unpunctual and irregular when you go out into the world and you will then find that the world has no use for you. No matter how clever a man may be, if he cannot be counted on to be at his work, when he is wanted, if in other words, he be unreliable he will not fit into any business or organisation. He is like a

wheel in a machine that every now and then won't go round and so stops the machine from working: it has to be discarded. Every business is a machine depending for its efficiency on every part regularly doing its work. No head of a business will keep an employee who may be absent from his post when there is an important duty to be performed any more than a captain of a ship will keep on a sailor who may be away from his lookout at the time a collision has to be avoided. This is a practical point as I know from experience; when a government officer is reported as irregular or unpunctual in his attendances know that in the interests of the public I have to get rid of him. If the boys of St. Joseph's College do not acquire habits of regular attendance at school the Government and other employers will look elsewhere when they have a start in life to offer a young man. I shall be obliged, Rev. Father, by your reporting specially to me on this subject at the end of next year, and if you will point out to me now the boy who has been most regular in his attendance during the last year, so that I may mark the importance that I attach to this matter by presenting him with a special prize.

As the school records had to be searched to discover which boy was entitled to the prize His Excellency left the bestowing of it in the hands of the Director.

As His Excellency left the College, the boys, who were drawn up in two lines along the side walk, gave him three hearty cheers which were smilingly acknowledged.

AHEAD OF HIS TIME.

A CHINESE REFORMER.

It has long been an open secret that the official life of Wu Ting-fang is distinctly not a happy one, and for the fiftieth time the rumour is again current that he contemplates retiring in disgust from the uphill task of trying to hoist the decrepit old Government on to a higher platform. In the Wai Wu Pu he was at an acute angle to his fossilised associates on almost all points, and his transfer to the Board of Punishment with the idea of maintaining his connection exclusively with law and its administration, was doubtless largely prompted by the hope that he would there enjoy more scope for his brilliant ability and official life would run more smoothly. But according to native report this is not so, and in the Board of Punishment as in the Wai Wu Pu he is becoming known as "Wu the foreign devil" until his spirit is sick and his patience well nigh exhausted. Making all allowance for even a considerable amount of exaggeration, it is highly probable that this is somewhat how matters stand, for it is impossible for China's present effort to engraft the new without pruning the old to be otherwise than fraught with bitterness of soul and a sense of futility. Wu Ting-fang, though he may not count all foreigners among his friends and admirers, is without question a man on a pedestal compared with his countrymen, and far ahead of his day. Save in Hongkong where Chinese capacity has been seen at its very best in the administrative circle, he is probably without any real peer in his solid grasp of modern and Western thought and education, and should he ever have *carte blanche* to reorganize the Government with men whom his knowledge would dictate as the right men to come to the fore, a new future would be quickly opened out for China. But the clear-sighted vision and acumen which this advanced official brings to bear on the needs of his country, is baffled and thwarted at every turn by the blindness, the deafness, and the immutability of hopeless ignorance and obstinacy which he encounters at every turn, and we cannot wonder if from time to time the cry escapes him that he will throw down his tools and desist from his laborious task of remodelling China against her will. It is satisfactory however to know that the Court does to a very great extent appreciate Wu Ting-fang's value and we may rest assured he will not be allowed to resign at present and so long as he is well to the fore, backed by Tong Shao-yi, the Viceroy and one or two other enlightened spirits, there is always a chance for steady progress, however slow.—*Peking Times*.

"SHANGHAI UNDER ARMS."

INTERESTING DETAILS.

The batch of Shanghai papers to hand this week was awaited with great interest, as likely to afford an idea of the local impressions of the recent crisis. They are naturally full of the affair. Drawing entirely upon our contemporary the *N.-C. Daily News*, we have collated the following details, keeping them as much as possible in chronological order.

SMALL BEGINNINGS.

The indications of the riot of Dec. 18th were held to point to an organised plan, though the work itself was left almost entirely to loafers, paid or otherwise. The idea seemed to be, by cutting off the food supplies, to intimidate Chinese in foreign employ, and bring about a suspension of business. Inflammatory placards had been posted the day before throughout the native city and in the Settlement itself, urging a general strike for the purpose of asserting so-called Chinese rights. As far as can be ascertained the earliest outbreak occurred at Hongkew market, where the country gardeners arriving in the morning with vegetables, fruit, and meat for the day's sales were set upon by a number of rowdies, who had taken it on themselves to forbid any business. Stalls were overturned, the goods destroyed, and a free fight ensued. Some foreigners joined in with sticks and the market was cleared.

FOREIGNERS ATTACKED.

About the same time a large crowd of natives began to assemble at the head of the Maloo and to call on the rice shopkeepers to put up their shutters. Foreigners coming into the Settlement for the day's business were molested. Mr. E. S. Little, driving in with his wife was held up by an overturned ricksha, his carriage attacked and damaged, and his progress barred. He had to return home. Others met with similar experiences, among the sufferers being several medical practitioners out on their rounds. It was reported that Dr. Macleod had been stopped in his motor car and seriously wounded, but the latter part of the statement was fortunately exaggerated, and beyond a slight bruise and the breaking of the glass of his motor the doctor escaped. Several foreigners were attacked with knives.

Dr. Schotz, Acting German Consul-General, and two of his Vice-Consuls (Dr. Mezger and Mr. Schirmer) were set upon in the lower end of Nanking Road, and had to take refuge in Mr. Max Nössler's bookstore. Mr. Julian Arnold, the American Vice-Consul and Mixed Court Assessor was also a victim, coming in for some rough handling near the Race Course, and sustaining damage to his clothing. Mr. R. A. J. Andersen driving in Broadway had the glass windows of his brougham smashed.

BLUEJACKETS LANDED.

At the first intimation of trouble bluejackets were put ashore from H.M.S.S. *Astraea*, *Bonaventure*, and *Clio*, which have been lying off the Bund for a week. The landing was watched with open-mouthed curiosity by the native idlers who had already begun to collect on the foreshore but no active measures against the sailors were taken. Small detachments were marched up the Maloo where the riot had now become too much for the police, and where Louza police station and the Hotel Metropole annexe were ablaze. Some Italians with a howitzer from the *Marco Polo* followed, and these with the aid of volunteers restored order. Some of the bluejackets were put on patrol duty in the principal streets but most of the men were posted in the British consulate compound, where the gatling guns were kept ready for emergencies. A party of marines was told off to guard the Custom House in conjunction with the volunteers. A little later a squad from S. M. S. *Vaterland* was put ashore and the men with fixed bayonets were posted to defend the principal German buildings.

THE VIRTUE OF PREPAREDNESS.

The Shanghai Volunteers had been in readiness for a call for some days past and turned out promptly and well at the summons, taking up the posts assigned to them. The Municipal Police, foreign and Sikh, appeared on the streets armed with rifles. As far as possible applications made to the Captain-Superintendent at headquarters for small guards

were complied with, but the really small force available for service in a riot, and to allow for proper reliefs, made it inadvisable to detach too many for this special service. Sikhs and foreigners alike behaved splendidly and with remarkable moderation. Captain-Superintendent Boisragon, with Messrs. McKuen and Fenton (cadets) were hard at work all day at headquarters, disposing their compact force to best advantage. At the Volunteer headquarters small arms and ammunition were served out to foreigners who asked for them, while the supply lasted, but later the issue was confined to present members of the S. V. C. and many young foreigners were disappointed.

POLICE PICKED OUT.

The police have been the central object of attack all through the agitation and very early in the day determined attacks were made on the Hongkew and Louza stations. At Hongkew the attack was easily beaten off, in great part by the judicious employment of a hose, and without casualty. The Louza affair was more serious; the fine building was set on fire by the raging mob, and in spite of the efforts of police, reinforced by members of the Fire Brigade, became a complete wreck. The mob began by breaking down the surrounding wall, and using the bricks as weapons of attack. A large body forced themselves into a small room at the side of the Charge-room, and obtaining possession set the place on fire. Incendiaries also got to work in two other parts of the ground floor, which was burnt out. The upper premises occupied by the sergeants and their families were not so badly damaged. All the prisoners except four in the cells were released. In the struggle that ensued three foreigners were injured, so badly that they had to be removed to hospital. An Inspector lost his thumb. The police in the anxiety to do nothing further to infuriate the mob were not supplied with ball ammunition at first, and the well meaning but unhappy precaution, was perhaps a reason that the riot was not quelled at once.

Seemingly encouraged by this success the mob turned their attention to the annexe of the Hotel Metropole which was also set on fire. Chairs and tables were tumbled into the street and what escaped the flames was deliberately smashed.

THE PUNISHMENT.

Bluejackets and volunteers interposed and shots were fired with the result that about seven Chinese were killed or wounded. The crowd then dispersed and the bodies were later removed to the Central Police Station.

Prior to this one Chinese had been shot dead in the Maloo outside Messrs. Gande & Co's premises. The incident occurred as a party of Volunteers were marching up the Maloo. One of them was struck by a stone and fired into the crowd with fatal effect. The crowd disappeared. The body lay by the roadside for an hour or more, an object of grim curiosity to the passing natives. In the morning also an attack was made on a gunsmith's shop in Nanking Road, the object being apparently to gain possession of the arms and ammunition. The shop was stripped. One Chinese was killed in the struggle here. Other incidents recorded are the hustling of the Rev. W. A. Cornaby, the well-known sinologue and Chinese Editor on the Szechuen Road Bridge, by men who stole his watch; and an attack on Dr. Jackson. While a squad from "A" Company were patrolling the Maloo during the afternoon a native advanced brandishing a naked sword. The foreign officer in charge shot him mortally. Ricsha coolies refused their fares with some persistence. Lady Florence Boyle and her maid arriving by steamer could get no coolies until some marines came to their assistance and escorted them to the British Consulate. For a short time in the early afternoon the centre of excitement moved towards the Bund. Large crowds collected and natives swarmed over the lawns and established themselves in the seats reserved for foreigners. There was, however, no turbulence, and the patrols which were strengthened for a time were reduced again.

PARENTAL FEARS.

Two teachers on their way to the Public School were molested, and when the trouble began to grow serious, the Head-master (Mr. Lanning) decided to suspend lessons and the children were escorted home in parties, greatly to the relief of parents, who had been

telephoning enquiries as to their safety. Considerable anxiety was felt by those residing in the Bubbling Well and Sinza districts for their wives and families, especially about noon when communication had practically ceased for a while. Arrangements were, however, made for the reception of those for whom special apprehension was felt at the Country Club, and a strong guard from "A" company, which had assisted in breaking up the trouble in Nanking Road, was ordered on to the Club and remained on duty there for the remainder of the day and night, with reliefs. It was a remarkable sight in the afternoon, children, and anxious mothers, and some anxious fathers also. The guard had with them one of the maxim guns. The Italian detachment went on to the Italian consulate, where other refugees were received. At night the Italians undertook the patrol of Bubbling Well Road. The Artillery were on duty during the morning at the gunshed, but were not called out till 5 p.m. when, as the senior unit of the corps, they took up all night patrol duty. The Light Horse and Mounted Infantry were also out on patrol duty at night.

FRENCH SETTLEMENT IMMUNE.

Although no rioting took place in the French Settlement, the French Volunteers were called out at night to keep a watch on the native city and the approaches from that side to the International Settlement. A report was current that a body of Pootung rowdies were to make a descent on the Settlement about midnight, and a smart look out was kept for the invaders, but up to the time of going to press nothing had been heard of them. Two Shanghailanders, who were over on the Pootung side in the afternoon, reported everything quiet in that neighbourhood, though a guard of bluejackets had been posted for precaution at the International Cotton Mill. Work proceeded there as usual. Admiral Sah's fleet of Chinese cruisers were specially guarding the Pootung side during the day and night.

ALL QUIET BY NIGHT.

With nightfall the Settlement returned to a quiet which seemed all the more profound by contrast with the noise and excitement of day. The Taotai had sent out illuminated proclamations on lantern poles exhorting the people to return to their homes, and the Municipal Council also had out manifestoes. Except for a stray ricsha-coolie here and there the streets were deserted by Chinese and the patrols had the thoroughfares to themselves. The Fire Brigade who had been in uniform all day in case of need, had by comparison with some recent days, a very easy time. The Municipal Electric Light Station was guarded at night by thirty five marines. During the morning many of the foreign shops in Nanking Road put up their shutters, and practically all the native shops, including those doing business with foreigners, were closed. It was explained in many instances that the closing was done under compulsion, that the shop keepers were afraid to keep their stores open lest worse befall. In the afternoon the Taotai issued a proclamation calling on the shopkeepers to reopen their shops. Indeed he himself appeared accompanied by other officials in the Maloo and made a personal call on the shopkeepers to reopen "for the present." He enforced his arguments by the statement that foreigners had already killed several Chinese and it was useless to persist in the rioting.

AN UGLY REPORT.

A very ugly report reached the office of our contemporary, on what appeared to be good authority, the authority at all events of one who speaks Chinese fluently and was in touch with what was being said upon the streets. According to this report, as many as 1,500 Chinese soldiers in the pay of certain officials, but out of uniform had been sent among the people during the morning and were the real ringleaders in urging the closing of shops. It was only when it was seen that the foreign element was too strong that an attempt was made to withdraw from this hostile attitude. One official had been seen during the morning inciting the people.

FOREIGN GUERRILLAS.

Apparently there were "eyewitnesses" who enjoyed the excitement, and were eager to recount their experiences. One of the most vivid glimpses is the tale of what one saw in Hanbury

Road between 9.30 and 11 a.m. There was a disturbance near the Fire Engine station, a great mob surrounding four or five English police and four Sikh policemen. There were no Chinese police present. The mob were throwing stones at the foreigners and police. A foreigner who was apparently a Spaniard attempted to force his way through, by firing a ninechambered revolver in the air. The mob continued to throw stones at him and the foreigner then fired into the mob several times, bringing down several killed and wounded. The police did not fire, but used their batons and clubbed the mob who were armed with bamboo sticks. The police were unable to get hold of those who fell; they were taken away by their Chinese friends. About 5 p.m. four Chinese officials on horseback in Hongkew were exhorting the people to keep quiet.

A spectator in Nanking Road supplied interesting particulars. He was near the Town Hall at about 8.30 a.m. A small crowd of natives went to the proprietor of a chow shop and ordered him to close up at once. There was a disturbance and two Chinese police sergeants came along and took the ringleader towards the Louza police station; a foreign gentleman and a constable helped. The crowd meantime had grown very rapidly and practically filled the roadway. Every foreigner passing by was held up. Ricshas were overturned. A foreign lady was hustled and her cloak torn off. A motor car belonging to Mr. G. D. Pitzipios, the British Vice-Consul, came along; the crowd seized it, maltreated the occupants, turned the car over and set it on fire; it was burnt completely up in the middle of the roadway. Several foreigners on bicycles were stopped and their machines thrown into the bonfire. A lady was among the cyclists stopped. Then the mob turned their attention to the Town Hall, which they stoned, smashing the windows. A body of police, with arms, arrived and were greeted with a volley of stones. They fired two rounds of blank cartridge without producing any effect on the mob and then fired a round of ball cartridge killing three men. Three of the Sikhs had themselves been injured. Sergeant Robinson was cut on the head, and Mr. Stewart who only lately left the Force, and happened to be present, was very badly wounded. P. C. Timmins was also slightly hurt. The injured men were taken into the Town Hall. A squad of British bluejackets now came up the Maloo and cleared the way. They halted first at the Town Hall and then proceeded to the Horse Bazaar; a small detachment of volunteers followed, and then more marines. After these came a body from the Italian cruiser Marco Polo with a howitzer, and the Maloo was completely cleared from Chekiang Road to the Horse Bazaar, several rounds (of blank ammunition apparently) being fired down the side alleys. This informant made his way along to the International Bicycle Company's premises to secure some more effective firearms than his small pocket pistol, but the shop was already in the hands of the mob, who were on the same quest. One of the crowd was shot by him, and carried away by the Chinese.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

The editorial remarks first made were to the effect that the weakness of the British Minister in ordering the surrender of the prisoners had been misconstrued: that it was a case of giving an inch to those who would at once assume it safe to take an ell. The riot (in which no better class Chinese participated) was "deliberately planned and prepared outside the Settlement, and salt smugglers, rowdies, and loafers, men of whom the countryside is full, joined, we are assured, by Chinese soldiers in mufti, have been paid to come into the Settlement and make a disturbance. It is not yet known who distributed the placards on Sunday ordering the Chinese to close their shops, but there is good reason to believe that the parties really responsible are the heads of the boycott movement. The mob was reinforced by the members of the beggars' guild, whose chief aim was, of course, loot; and Chinese state that the first victims were Chinese shopkeepers who had not entirely closed their shops. For, owing to the representations made by the guilds, and especially the bankers' guild, who did everything they could to prevent a breach of the peace, the shopkeepers in many cases opened their shops as usual, and only closed them when the riot began.

It is impossible to free the Taotai from all responsibility. He was warned, we understand that his action in the Mixed Court matter was not unlikely to be followed by a riot, and it cannot be said that he did his best to preserve the peace."

"The small amount of damage actually done, considering the vulnerability of the Foreign Settlement, is a convincing proof, if any more proof were wanted, that the riot was not the work of the Shanghai people, who knew, indeed, that if the riot attained serious dimensions, they would suffer quite as much as foreigners." "The value of our Volunteer Corps has been again most effectually demonstrated as well as the fact that it is never safe to leave Shanghai without men-of-war capable of landing a considerable number of men. The Taotai has no force that could be trusted to protect the Settlements, if he wanted to do it; and our Volunteer force would have to be much larger than it is, if we had to rely exclusively upon it and the police; for to the looter the wealth of Shanghai offers an enormous temptation."

THE "BEGGAR KING" AND THE RIOT.

The mob on Monday consisted in the first place, naturally, of the rowdies, loafers, and unemployed coolies of the Settlements: next of a body of gamblers and salt smugglers from outside the Shanghai district, and lastly and most important of all of the followers and partisans of the late Cheng Tse-ming (Coll.:—Zung Tse-ming) an erstwhile "Chiaohua Wang," or King of Beggars of Shanghai-hsien, or district—a post which, by the way, is a hereditary one in China. A word as to this ex-Beggar "King" Cheng Tse-ming who, when he succeeded to his hereditary "dignities," had found under his special command some thousand or two lusty and strapping ragged beggars in this district, still further added considerably to his strength and influence, by means of his brute courage and strength, a following of some hundreds of rowdies, loafers, and gamblers who are known as, and also proudly call themselves "Zung Tse-ming," or Partisans of Cheng Tse-ming. By their help the Beggar "King" murdered and robbed, kidnapped and oppressed the whole countryside for some dozen years or so within a seventy-five miles' radius of Shanghai. In his gang also were Vah Mao-mao, Vah Kah-der, and other ruffians whom the Shanghai Police are using their best endeavours to lay by the heels. So notorious had Cheng Tse-ming become by the lawless acts of himself and gang that the Chinese authorities could shut their eyes no longer to the man's shortcomings, with the result that his arrest was decided upon and a large reward was offered in the usual way for Cheng Tse-ming "dead or alive" which ended in some of his followers, tempted by the reward, betraying their chief to the authorities who forthwith had the man summarily decapitated. The mantle of this arch-ruffian has since fallen on the much-wanted Vah Kahder and his lieutenant Vah Mao-mao now undergoing twenty years penal servitude in the Municipal goal. The followers and partisans of the late Beggar "King" are all armed with knives when they go about, while the principal members of the gang keep a regular arsenal of weapons and revolvers on their persons. These were the rascals who had the chief hand in starting the riots of Monday with the ultimate object of breaking down the Municipal goal to rescue their present chief's lieutenant.

MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS AT WORK.

A detachment of the Light Horse galloped up the Maloo and charged into a mob, doing splendid work with the ponies, backing into the crowds and wheeling very effectively. This work was assisted in by Sikh mounted police. One or two of the Light Horse used riding whips with good effect. On the cutting roads the mounted troops met with many rough gangs of Chinese both night and day and some of them were inclined to try and force their way past the horsemen into the Settlement. These gangs were effectively dealt with but it is reported that in some cases firing had to be resorted to to disperse groups that were trying to unite and would have made a tough body had they succeeded. The patrolling was kept up continuously, the ponies proving very hardy.

A SPEEDY SUPPRESSAL.

There was no means of getting authentic figures of casualties. No foreign lives were lost; but it is believed that many of the rioters were killed, as foreigners unattached to the various forces did not hesitate to shoot when threatened. The Chinese removed their own dead and wounded. Next day it was said and admitted that they had "had a lesson;" and although precautions very properly continued to be taken, there was no serious attempt to renew the trouble. The display of preparedness was too strong.

WHEN IT WAS OVER.

The subsequent excitement was due to the indefatigable rumour-mongers and "scare" manufacturers. Business was resumed as far as possible under normal conditions in the morning. An evening paper made a contemptible suggestion that Japanese were aiding and abetting the rioters; but the character of the journal thus guilty was already generally known; and although the suggestion was formally repudiated, nobody thought it necessary. As a matter of fact, it is recorded that the Japanese were in fear of an attack themselves, and mustered as strong a guard as they could at the Consulate. A number of nervous people resident in the outskirts continued to stay at the Country Club, where they were hospitably cared for. Telephone communication was never interrupted.

A SENSIBLE CHINESE COMMENT.

The *Nanfangpao*, discussing the riot, said: "The great mistake was that the mob was not fired on at the very beginning, for no doubt the outbreak would not have been so serious, had a few of the ruffians been killed. Once they had a taste of blood, without receiving punishment, they got bolder and bolder and every foreigner that came in their way was attacked. "No one deplores the tragedy of yesterday more deeply than we do. The acts of violence were totally uncalled for, and the perpetrators, who had their ulterior motives, should be severely punished. We had thought that the Mixed Court outbreak was to be settled amicably, and that the recent disagreement was on a fair way to arrive at an understanding. "A serious blow has been dealt on China's prestige, which will take years for her to recover."

Our contemporary remarks on this:—

"The police have been blamed for not acting with greater severity when the riot began; but we doubt if anyone realised at first how serious it threatened to become. It is, no doubt, true that if more Chinese had been killed early in the morning, it would have been over sooner. It is amusing to see the *Nanfangpao*, which is largely responsible for the trouble, deprecating the tenderness of the police; we can easily imagine what its virtuous indignation would have been, if a larger number of Chinese had been shot down, resulting in such a rapid quelling of the disturbance, that it would then have been asserted that it was not a riot at all, but a mere temporary and local ebullition of feeling. The calmness and moderation with which the police acted, in the face of very serious provocation, deserves nothing but praise."

A MIDNIGHT ALARM.

There were some moments of tense excitement just after midnight on the 19th. A few stray shots were reported from the neighbourhood of Li Hongkew and the news came, by way of the Central Police Station, to the British naval headquarters at the Consulate, that a large Chinese army was marching on the Settlement from that direction, that they were close upon the General Hospital, if not already in possession of it, and that they were firing the country as they came. They were said to have driven in the outposts with the loss of some lives to the defenders. To bear out this statement the whole sky to the West of the Settlement became ruddy, as with the glare of an enormous conflagration. The general alarm was rung from the bell towers, the bluejackets turned out from the British and German Consulates, Volunteers came along the Bund at the double, the machine guns were got into position on the Garden Bridge and in front of the Astor House, and mounted scouts were sent out to ascertain what was doing. The scouts soon returned with the information that they could locate no enemy

and the main bodies of bluejackets were withdrawn to the Consulates as the most central points of defence.

The glare in the sky continued and a fire was got up on the fire-boat, while the Brigade hurried off towards Sinza village where the blaze was in progress. A large number of native houses were found well alight, and there were also large quantities of straw, pointing to incendiary action. The outbreak was tackled with such energy and success that by half past one o'clock it was entirely under control and the engines returned. The streets by that time were as quiet and deserted as ever.

CURIOUS INCIDENT AND COMMENT.

Curiously enough, the Indians seemed to be most unpopular. An Indian with a white turban and armed stick was quickly walking along the street on the 19th, when he was espied at a distance by a crowd of rioters who called out "Here comes a cursed Indian!" A volley of stones were flung in the man's direction which made him quicken his footsteps while a number of the rowdies proceeded to give chase. At this critical moment an armed patrol consisting of two English and four Sikh constables suddenly came on the scene, and the mob scattered, but not fast enough to escape before two of their number had been seized by the Sikhs, who at once prepared to bayonet their prisoners. Then the English constables interfered. They struck up the Sikhs' bayonets which were within an ace of the breasts of the two rowdies and then ordered them to be released. A shout of approval at this act of clemency arose from the native onlookers who were standing at a distance, and we may be sure [it is a Chinese telling the story] that the story will go the rounds amongst the native population and incline them to look with much more favour at the European members of the Force than hitherto, and cause many Chinese to withhold their hand when circumstances are more in their own favour. The last sentence is rather suggestive of Chinese hopes. A foreign correspondent writing in the next issue thinks the "clemency" was a blunder. He says:—"Now experience with the Chinese has always shown that clemency does not appeal to them; it is entirely opposed to all their methods; in a word, they construe it as weakness. The "shout of approval" from the crowd, to which your Chinese correspondent alludes in such a touching manner was, I shrewdly suspect, more in the nature of a shout of derision. Doubtless the European police were only acting under orders—it seems that all through the lamentable events of the past few days their powers have been woefully limited—but to release these rowdies without inflicting any punishment seems to a mere outsider a piece of incomprehensible folly which the Chinese will assuredly regard as a confession of weakness and not as an act of clemency."

JAPANESE ASSISTANCE HANDY.

Editorial comments three days afterwards took the line that long immunity at Shanghai [the Wheelbarrow Riot was a comparatively insignificant affair] has lulled them into "a false sense of security." The country round Shanghai is infested with ruffians who congregate there because the foreign official arm cannot reach them, and the native official arm never tries. Although the community is impressed by the able way in which the trouble was tackled, and endorses the commandant's opinion that no body of men could have behaved better than the volunteers, it is hoped that the volunteer corps may be greatly strengthened. Many more would be needed in an affair like that of 1900. Our contemporary says:—"Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to know that in 28 hours after receiving an appeal, the Japanese can land here ten thousand soldiers, fully equipped, from Saseho. The men are always ready, and the fast cruisers to bring them are ready; and this is a fact reassuring to us, and which the rowdies round about would do well to remember."

LINGERING UNEASINESS.

We must not too soon congratulate ourselves that all danger is past, they add. The Chinese are quiet for the moment, believing that the Taotai has carried all his points, including the disposition of the Mixed Court, to suit himself, and there may be some dissatisfaction when the truth is known. It will take some time, too, for the anti-foreign feeling which has been growing up in the interior and up the Yangtze,

to die away again; and the attention of the high officials may have to be drawn to it.

The rest of the voluminous notes and comments deal chiefly with the arrival of detachments, and so on, the gist of which has appeared in our telegrams. Some volunteers, it appears, noticed that shots were fired at them from upper windows in one street. The Police Magistrate had to deal with the cases of several foreigners who, through hard drinking and excitement, made themselves dangerous with loaded revolvers. His Worship said, "most people are carrying revolvers now, I know," but added that they must not get drunk and flourish them about. In some cases, sentries and pickets had been nearly shot by these drunken fools.

THE STATUS OF SHANGHAI.

The following official correspondence was ordered for immediate publication:—

Shanghai, 13th December, 1904.

Sir—Having received assurance that the defendant in kidnapping case Li Wanshih, from Szechuen, is innocent in the charge brought against her, the Consular Body decided that she should be released at once.

Therefore I request you to immediately take the necessary action to restore her liberty. —I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

S. KLEIMANOW, Senior Consul.

F. ANDERSON, Esq.,

Chairman of the Municipal Council,
Shanghai.

15th, December, 1905.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, conveying to the Council an intimation that the Consular Body has received assurance that the defendant in the kidnapping case is innocent, and requesting therefore that she be released at once from custody.

As a result of a special meeting held to discuss the matter on Thursday, the Council decided to give effect to your request, and the woman in question was accordingly set at liberty. The Council took for granted that your letter was intended to apply to the several persons implicated in the case, whose arrest was sanctioned under the same warrant as that referring to the woman Li, and therefore released them all.

While thus giving effect to the decision of the Consular Body which, it is understood, is taken under instructions from Peking, the Council desires to place on record the following observations and facts in connection with this case:—

It is observed with regret that the substance of your communication of yesterday appears today in practically identical form, though unofficial and without authority, in the local Press. It will be within your recollection that the Consular Body formally requested on a certain occasion that matters of this kind should not be communicated to the Press except upon their conclusion.

The Council notes that the Consular Body is informed that the defendant in this case is innocent of the charge brought against her, but no mention is made of any evidence to justify this conclusion. On the other hand, it is to be observed that this case was brought in a proper and regular manner before the Mixed Court; that a warrant in proper form was issued and that the *prima facie* evidence produced by the Police was sufficient for the Court to remand the prisoners for further enquiry. It is also to be observed that the Council had subsequently made arrangements, in view of the possible innocence of the defendants, to release them on security, but that, owing to the confirmation of this arrangement by the Court not being forthcoming, the prisoners were necessarily detained in custody.

It is not the Council's intention to discuss the original evidence or the reasons for the arrest in this case, since the prisoners have been released, but the Council desires to point out that the case being properly before the Court and formally remanded, the only regular manner of dealing with the matter in conformity with legality and the Consular Body's established procedure, was to bring the matter

again before the Court when, if the Police evidence was insufficient for a conviction, the defendants would have been duly discharged.

The Council is not a judicial Body, and fulfilling its executive functions, has no alternative but to carry out the irregular procedure prescribed in this case, regarding the authorities from whom it emanated in this instance as a special Court of Appeal, but the responsibility for this decision and for its consequences cannot rest with the Council.

The reasons for which the Consular Body originally decided that female prisoners should be placed in the new women's ward have been fully recorded in the past, but the Council would take this opportunity of again drawing attention to the facts published in last year's Annual Report as to the condition of the cells in which women were formerly detained at the Mixed Court and to that of the 14th October, recently submitted to yourself.

The Consular Body's decision to introduce necessary reforms in the management of the women's ward, a decision based on civilised usage and fully justified by local conditions, was conveyed to the Chinese authorities in the Senior Consul's dispatch of the 10th June; if this decision is now to be reversed it is to be hoped that at least arrangements will be made with the Chinese authorities for suitable supervision of the native gaol's administration.

Similarly, in carrying out the instructions of the British Assessor and insisting upon the detention of the female defendants in the custody of the Municipal Police, the latter were acting strictly within their duties and in accordance with the recorded instructions of the Consular Body. It cannot be too clearly stated that from the inception of this matter, the Council has proceeded in agreement with the Consular Body, nor can the action of the Police in carrying out the instructions of the Assessor be called in question. The objects of the Consular Body and of the Council have been to promote the best interests of the native community and to remedy the more flagrant of those abuses which have made the Mixed Court notorious in the past; and by publicity, and the additional security afforded by the presence of Assessors, to prevent their continuance.

The native community has frequently recognised that the policy thus urged on the native authorities by the Consular Body and the Municipal Council has been dictated solely in the interests of good government and the more humane treatment of prisoners. Therefore, in the negotiations now pending between the Consular Body and the Chinese Authorities in regard to future administration, it appears essential that in the vehemence of popular agitation, the past history of the Court should not be overlooked, and that the recurrence of such abuses be prevented.

In conclusion, the Council would suggest that the present moment is particularly opportune for the Ministers representing the Treaty Powers at Peking to arrange with the Chinese Government a code of Regulations and revised constitution of the Mixed Court of this Settlement based on the agreements and procedure which long experience has proved to be necessary, so that misunderstanding and friction may in future be avoided. This request may the more reasonably be made inasmuch as it has been put forward by the Consular Body and the Council at various times since 1876, but more particularly during the past ten years, with no result whatever.

With a view to placing the situation clearly before the public, the Council will now publish his correspondence officially, a course which doubtless meets with your approval.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant.

F. ANDERSON, Chairman.

C. KLEIMANOW, Esq.,

Consul-General for Russia
and Senior-Consul:

The *Chugai Shogyo Shimpo* reports that two important Chinese sugar merchants of Formosa have failed in consequence of the heavy decline of the market, and have involved in heavy losses the Bank of Formosa, the 34th Bank, and others. One report puts the losses of the banks at Y200,000, and another estimates the loss of the Bank of Formosa at Y400,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONGKONG FLOWER SHOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I am again asking you to allow me to use your correspondence column with reference to the approaching Flower Show, as the Governor has offered prizes for the best kept gardens in Victoria, on the Peak and in Kowloon, and this is the surest way of conveying His Excellency's offer to the community. It will be necessary for owners of gardens wishing to compete to send in their names to me before January 10th. The judges would make their inspection visits between January 22nd and 27th (inclusive), and would pay special attention to the neatness of the gardens and the evidence of personal care and attention.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. T. DUNN,

Hon. Sec. Flower Show Committee.

Hongkong, 28th December, 1905.

CHRISTMAS MISADVENTURES.

HONGKONG GENTLEMEN'S UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCES.

A most unorthodox Christmastide was spent by a number of local gentlemen who set out on Sunday morning in a launch for Lantau Island, where they intended enjoying the holidays. Leaving Hongkong about 10 o'clock the party, which consisted of Sir Henry Berkeley, Mr. E. H. Sharp, Mr. J. Hastings, Mr. C. Ewens and Mr. C. D. Melbourne, reached Tung Chun and landed with the intention of exploring the island. The plateau on the summit of a hill became their objective, but they had only climbed part of the way when they realised that the party had become separated. Sir Henry Berkeley, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Ewens decided to proceed to Taro police station. Meanwhile the launch had been ordered to Sam Wat, but as nothing could be learned of its whereabouts the three gentlemen named embarked on the ordinary ferry launch with the intention of returning to Hongkong. But further misfortunes awaited them. The launch had not got far out of the bay when in the tempestuous seas that were running, it struck on a reef and was wrecked, all efforts to get her off proving unavailing. The gentlemen were in a sorry plight, drenched, without food and shelter and exposed all night to the elements. Meanwhile Mr. Ewens and Mr. Melbourne had found their way to the Taro Police Station and afterwards obtained quarters for the night. Next morning they took a launch for Hongkong and on the way came across their shipwrecked comrades on the reef. They were taken on board, together with the Chinese passengers, and returned to Hongkong on Monday morning when the anxiety of their friends was relieved.

THE MIXED COURT INCIDENT.

The *N.-C. Daily News* on Dec 18 said.—The news which was in the air yesterday that our Foreign Office has decided that the Taotai's demand for the removal of Mr. Twyman from the post of British assessor at the Mixed Court, is entirely inadmissible, has given general satisfaction. The studiously discourteous tone of the Taotai's dispatch to Sir Pelham Warren, as published in the native papers, would itself have been sufficient reason for the refusal of the demand, even if Mr. Twyman had not been simply acting under orders. The release of the prisoners in the irregular fashion in which it was done is the very utmost concession that could be made to the Chinese demands, and we trust that the whole incident is now closed.

A SHANGHAI POINT OF VIEW.

The *N.-C. Daily News* refers to some "wild writing" in the *Nanfengpao*, and says:—The whole article shows a very shallow and inadequate knowledge of the facts. The writer treats the suggestion that the Mixed Court should be abolished altogether, as one that need not be seriously considered; he evidently had no idea how nearly the suggestion was carried out. He regards the Chefoo Agreement of 1876, which was never ratified by Great Britain, as having the force of a Treaty, while, if the Mixed Court were established by treaty, by what right could the Taotai, who is after all only a subordinate official, open or close it at his will? Then the *Nanfengpao* insists that Chinese must be represented on the Municipal Council, a sheer impossibility as long as this remains a Foreign Settlement and threatens that if this concession is refused, the Chinese merchants and their guilds will remove to the Chinese Bund; though it is obvious that if they did not prefer living in the Foreign Settlement, even in their unrepresented condition, they would never have left Nantao to come here. Our contemporary does not seem to realise that it is not as if trade was carried on here before foreigners came, and the Chinese merchants and bankers had remained from old custom. The present Foreign Settlement was only rice and cotton land when it was set apart for foreign residence. The Chinese merchants and bankers came to the foreigners, not the foreigners to them, and the exclusion from the privilege of a seat on the hard-st-worked unpaid Board in China will not be enough to cause any reasonable Chinese banker or merchant to transfer his domicile to the Taotai's jurisdiction.

The case of the kidnappers was merely a pretext, and a very cleverly selected pretext, for it enlisted all the Cantonese sympathy for the widow of an official brutally arrested by the foreign police while harmlessly pursuing her way to Canton with fifteen young slave girls. The deliberate object of the officials and the students and the patriotic orators is not to vindicate their rights on the Foreign Settlements, because these rights were finally abandoned fifty years ago; but "to recover for themselves the administration of this wealthy Settlement," of course it makes the Taotai's mouth water to see the Municipal Council collecting a revenue of over a million taels and a-half a year, of which he gets nothing. It is not merely unkind but it is unnatural. It is blatherskits for the Taotai to praise up the magistrate Kuan for "maintaining against all odds the sovereign rights of China," when "he knows that in the Foreign Settlement those rights are in abeyance, that for thirty years his predecessors have not been in a position to exercise the sovereign rights of China in request of natives resident therein. He knows that he cannot arrest, fine, or imprison any man without Consular warrant and judgment, that no taxes of any kind (land-tax excepted) are payable to the Chinese Government within our borders, that he cannot post a proclamation in our streets or bring a body of Chinese troops through municipal limits without permission; he knows in fact this is a community under foreign administration." Unfortunately to the new arrival from home, who knows nothing of oriental ways, these restrictions on China's sovereign rights seem unnecessary and humiliating; he does not realise that we have been taught by hard experience to insist on this freedom of action for our Settlement; that it is difficult enough for some three or four thousand of the ruling races to preserve order among four hundred thousand Chinese, and absolutely impossible if any interference on the part of the Chinese officials is not instantly opposed, and if the Council is not always on the watch. Unfortunately, the Chinese officials can always buy the services of foreigners ready with specious arguments, to urge that we are quite unnecessarily obdurate in our determination to extend our rights rather than yield an inch of what we have achieved by years of continuous vigilance and effort. There is no doubt that the wild talk of the magistrate and the Taotai, their perversion of the facts of the fracas in the Mixed Court, and the arguments of the native Press in their support, prepared

the ground for the recent riot if they did not actually incite it. The *Nanfengpao* points with pride to the fact that the riot was the work of outside rowdies and loafers, and that the Shanghai people did not sympathise with the movement. This is partly true, and we should be proud if it were wholly true; for it would show that our fellow-residents do not look upon us as oppressors, and are perfectly satisfied with our rule; and that they have too much sense to listen to those who have been trying to incite them to rise against us.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Twenty-seven undesirables from Saigon and thirteen from the Straits Settlements were landed here yesterday and subsequently passed on to other ports.

The *Eastern World* says that the Finance Department has decided to dispose of the military notes in Manchuria through the Specie Bank. According to its plan the Bank is to establish branch offices at various places and to exchange the military notes with its bills payable at sight. Some 70 million yen worth of the military notes are said to be in circulation in Manchuria. In this connection it is said that the Government contemplates to revise the law governing the Specie Bank so as to make Chinese eligible for its shareholders (and directors). If that is the case the much-talked-of establishment of a Japan-China Bank will probably be dropped to the ground.

The Hongkong correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, discussing the forthcoming flower show, says: I fear they are missing the whole point of having a flower show here. They keep talking of improving the vegetable supply, as if any trumpery prize they could offer could equal the market gardener's lust for good prices. The object ought to be to get everybody with a bit of ground or a verandah to coax flowers to come there. Not that much coaxing would be needed; it only means a little initial cost for seeds, a little attention in the way of watering and shading, and Hongkong would become a wonder of the world. It's built for it, a big natural greenhouse. Instead, the people buy from the Chinese a few pots of evergreen things that "give no trouble and always look fresh." I could weep for the wasted opportunity.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, December 14th, 1905, states:—The home markets are firm. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 12-1½. Raw Silk:—Business is more or less at a standstill owing to the higher prices asked and also to the advance in exchange rates. Yellow Silk:—A considerable business has been done in these. Steam Filatures—Fine sizes are in some request, but we do not hear of any transactions for America. Hand Filatures—Are neglected. Waste Silk—About 2,000 piculs have been settled at:—Shanghai Long Waste Tls. 23-25 (whole bales). Filature Tussah Waste 50 percent. Tls. 22½. Honan Long Waste, Tls. 7-7½. Szechuen Frisonets (common), Tls. 24 (whole bales).

CANTON, 16th December, 1905:—Long-reels.—The improvement reported in our last rapidly developed into a general movement, which has been upheld by the fall in exchange; about 3,000 bales were bought at irregular prices according to the crops. Local values jumped up \$40/\$60 per picul, and have since remained steady, although little subsequent business has been done at the advance. The finest sizes, filatures 18/22, 20/24, 22/26 and "Natives" 11/13, 13/15, 14/18 have all been eagerly enquired for; but they have only met ready sellers for spot cargo, while holders are reluctant to accept contracts in 6th crop silk for forward deliveries. From sales made we quote: Fres. Kun Wa Lun 9/11 at from \$825 to \$840, Sun Yue Lun 9/11 at \$835, Kai Lun Cheong 9/11 at \$850, Wah Fung 9/11 at \$850; Kai Sun Cheong 10/12 at \$830, Hang Wo Cheong 10/12 at \$820; le. ordre 11/13 and 13/15 from \$780 to \$815; petit le. ordre 16/18 from \$735 to \$760; petit le. ordre 18/22 from \$710 to \$730; best 2me. ordre 18/22 from \$700 to \$720; best 3me. ordre 11/13, 13/15, 14/18 from \$690 to \$710. Short-reels.—The American buyers only responded to the European movement to a certain extent paying up to \$795 for Kwong Wo Hing 14/16. It is worthy of note that "Extra Extra B" and "Extra A" have been in good demand for

Europe. Waste Silk.—The country values have hardened in sympathy with the Raw Silk Market, and comparatively few transactions have taken place. Canton dealers have little stock on hand, and, being heavily engaged for forward contracts, they will not sell freely to arrive. Stock of Silk in Canton: 1,200 bales.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 29th December.—A downward tendency continues, market being very dull.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.40 to \$8.45 picul.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.20 to 7.25 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.30 to 6.35 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.80 to 5.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.00 to 8.10 "
Do. " 2, White.....	7.10 to 7.15 "
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.60 to 5.65 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	10.50 to 10.60 "
Shekloong ".....	9.55 to 9.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 29th December.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.80 to \$2.85
" Round, good quality.....	3.60 to 3.65
" Long.....	3.70 to 3.75
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	2.90 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.75 to 3.80
" White.....	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.25

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon 15th December, 1905, states:—We have no change to report in our market since our last advices. Arrivals of New Grain from the interior are about 2/3,000 piculs daily, but we have no fresh transactions to record in New Crop owing to high exchange.

We quote for November delivery.

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled (round)	per picul
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (round).....	\$3.40
5 % Cargo steam milled (round)	\$3.10
10 % Cargo steam milled (round)	\$3.00
20 % Cargo steam milled (round)	\$2.90

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 28th December,

Quotations are:—Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1020 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1050 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1100 to — do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1200 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$1150 to — do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$1200 to — do.
Patna New	\$965 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$950 to — do.
Benares New	\$932½ to — do.
Benares Old	\$915 to — do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of Dec. 28th, state that 21 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 92,400 tons of coal. Since December 14th 13 steamers have arrived with a total of 53,100 tons of coal.

Quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$15.00 \$16.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian	\$9.50 \$10.75 ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 nominal.
Miki Lump	\$11.00 to \$12.00 steady.
Moji Lump.....	\$9.00 to \$10.00 ex-ship steady.
Akaike Lump.....	\$9.75 to \$10.25 steady.
Bengal.....	\$8.75 to \$ 9.25 steady.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 29th December.—Fair business only. Market quiet. Stock about 2,000 bales.

Bombay.....	\$18.00 to \$19.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon }	18.00 to 23.00
and Dacca	"
Shanghai and Japanese... ..	26.00 to 27.00
Tungchow and Ningpo	26.00 to 27.00

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong 29th December, says:—As usual at the end of the season we give below a brief summary of the trade during the past twelve months.

Imports to Hongkong amount to 338,606 bales as against 212,405 in 1904, showing an increase of 50 per cent. Sales, on the other hand, have not kept pace with receipts, 147,617 bales only changing hands as against 145,410 bales last year. This may be accounted for by the dull and dragging condition of the up-country markets during the first half of the year, and but for the manipulations of some of our large native operators, and occasional assistance from Shanghai, a much smaller business would have had to be recorded.

Again, during the last six months, trade has been overdone in anticipation of the opening of the Manchurian markets, and whereas at the beginning of the year our unsold stock stood at 22,000 bales, we have now to start with 84,000 next year.

Despite these drawbacks, our importers on the whole have not done badly during the past year, for although values here have not responded generally to the advanced cost in Bombay, the steadiness of silver and rise in exchange have more than covered the loss in prices. At the beginning of the year Rupees stood at 145½ and are quoted to-day at \$153.

Our Chinese dealers have not, unfortunately, fared so well as the importers, as throughout the year the country markets have been irresponsive, but with cheaper foodstuffs, depletion of stocks and restricted arrivals, it is to be hoped some of the asperities of the year will be toned down, and trade in the country resume its normal condition.

In common with the rest of the cotton mill industry throughout the world, the year just past has been a red letter period to the mill industry of India. Cheap Cotton and steady silver has been a perfect God-send to some of them. Mills which were on the point of closing their doors at the end of 1904, have turned over a new leaf, whilst almost all are now working full time, having secured advantageous contracts up to the end of 1906, the profits in the several instances ranging from Rs. 20 to 40 per bale.

On 30th June last there were in India 191 mills working 5,118,121 spindles, and 45,337 looms, of which Bombay Island and Presidency claimed 133 mills, 3,565,655 spindles, and 34,287 looms, giving employment to 123,332 hands and consuming 1,253,498 bales of cotton.

No signs whatever of the long expected country demand are apparent, and only a small hand-to-mouth inquiry has been experienced during the past fortnight, at prices ranging from \$1 to \$1½ per bale under previous quotations. Holders do not appear anxious, being strengthened by telegraphic advices from Bombay, while on the other hand dealers are holding off entirely, in the hope of forcing importers to accept further concessions. Arrivals during the interval exceed clearances, stocks showing a further heavy increase.

Sales of the fortnight aggregate 2,115 bales, arrivals amount to 8,844, unsold stock estimated at 84,000 bales, and sold but uncleared goods 30,000.

Local Manufacture.—A sale of 300 bales No. 10s. at \$105, is reported.

Japanese Yarn.—Nothing doing.

Raw Cotton.—Holders have come down in their ideas of value, and are easier in their rates, and at the decline a fairly large business has been induced, say 750 bales at \$20 to \$21½, leaving a stock of 600 bales on the market. About 250 bales Thoongchow are reported sold at \$24 to \$25. Stock 250 bales. Quotations are, Indian \$20 to \$23 and China \$23 to \$26.

Exchange on India continues steady and closes to-day at Rs. 152½ for T/T and Rs. 153 for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and Yokohama 99½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 22nd instant, viz:—

Indian.—Quiet in the first week of the interval owing to the decline in exchange, but at the close there has been some enquiry for Tientsin, and sales to the extent of 1,250 bales are reported. Estimated unsold stock about 75,000 bales.

Japanese.—Continue in demand and about 2,600 bales have changed hands on the basis of Tls. 90½ to 96½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 101½ to 103 for No. 20s.

Local.—A contract of 5,000 bales Nos. 16s. at Tls. 89 has been put through by a native mill.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 21st December, 1905, states:—Business has been practically at a standstill during the week owing to the serious rioting which started on the 18th instant, still further hampering the trade of the Port. The auctions, particulars of which will be found below as usual, have monopolised all that has been done in goods from stock, while all forward transactions and indenting are suspended. There is no news from the North, both Newchwang and Tientsin being, apparently, closed. The River Ports are doing nothing in the way of ordering fresh supplies, while on the other hand there are sinister rumours of unrest amongst the Natives there as well. What news has come from Manchester reports a slightly easier market, but no one here is inclined to buy anything at present. The general opinion is that after their recent experiences the native dealers will not care to do any more indenting until the Spring by which time it is hoped they may have got rid of some of their accumulated stocks. Cotton has

steadily recovered from the slump reported last week, the latest Liverpool quotation for Mid. American being 6.40d, and 8½d for Egyptian. No telegrams concerning the market in New York have come to hand, but cotton has recovered there as well. The last inward Mail brought the British Trade Returns for October, the Exports to China and Hongkong for the ten months being as follows:—

Cotton Goods	Yards.	Value.	Yards.	Value.
Grey	311,995,900	3,256,518	174,726,400	1,811,603
White	188,832,500	2,364,947	123,625,800	1,580,720
Printed	29,460,000	373,709	22,155,600	293,179
Dyed	136,895,100	2,545,061	106,414,100	2,252,687
Total	666,133,500	8,539,235	426,943,900	8,035,194

The yarn markets are as bad as that for Piece Goods, and again there is only a retail business to report in Indian Spinings. Prices are considered steady. Japanese are easier, and also the higher counts of Local yarns. A contract for 5,000 bales No. 16s. has been made by one of the Native owned mills. Raw Cotton shows but little change. Re-Exports to Newchwang.—The most noteworthy feature of this is, of course, the enormous strides American goods have made, while in English makes Jeans show up by far the best, but the total of all kinds do not amount to a fourth of the former. Grey Shirtings.—None but the Auction sales to report on. For 7 lbs. prices were lower, from one to three per cent. only showing a slight advance. 8.4 lbs.—Went irregularly, prices ranging from twelve candareens decline to seven candareens advance, though in most cases it was very slight. Heavy Weights.—About the same remarks might apply to these, but the advances were less frequent. White Shirtings.—These show remarkably little change. 84-reeds were slightly firmer and also two or three chops of the best 72-reed. White Irishes are still weak. T-Cloths and Drills.—There is no movement reported in these makes. Fancy Goods.—The tendency was decidedly weaker at the auction this morning for Fast Black Italians, though tea cloths did show a slight advance. Turkey Reds were also weaker at auction. Woollens.—There are fitful demands for certain chops and colours of Camlets, when prices may be a little firmer, while for others they are very weak. For Long Ells, Lastings, and Spanish Stripes the tendency is lower. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—There is little of interest to report, there being only a desultory demand for the River markets, but the prices are fairly steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 29th December.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 18,000 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	\$2.20 to \$2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40
Fine 6.10 to 8.00	
Book-folds 5.30 to 8.10	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.70 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 3.80
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.	5.10 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ " to 8 lbs.	1.75 to 3.70
--	--------------

per yard
Brocades—Dyed 0.13½ to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted 0.09 to 0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.23 to 0.45
Velveteens—18 in. 0.21 to 0.25

per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.52 to 1.00

WOOLLENS—

per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.63 to 2.00
German — to —

per piece
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.20 to 3.00

per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. 7.75 to 8.90
Assorted 7.90 to 9.05
Canzets—Assorted 20.00 to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } 18.00 to 21.00
Assorted }
Orleans—Plain, 31 in. — to —

per lb.
Blankets—5 to 12 lbs. 0.60 to 1.50
per picul.
Iron—Nail Rod 4.25 to —
Square Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.20 to —
Swedish Bar 4.30 to —
Small Round Rod 4.60 to —
Hoop 1 to 1½ in. 6.50 to —
Wire, 16/25 oz. 9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old 3.00 to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop. 11.20 to —
Australian 11.20 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 43.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 43.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 43.00 to —
Composition Nails — to —
Japan Copper, Slabs — to —
Tin 87.00 to —
per box
Tin-Plates 7.00 to —
per cwt. case
Steel 1 to 1½ " — to —
per picul
Quicksilver 120.00 to —
per box
Window Glass 5.00 to —

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 29th December, 1905.

Apricot \$27 to —	
Borax \$14½ " \$17	
Cassia \$14 " \$19	
Cloves \$35 " —	
Camphor \$142 " —	
Cow Bezoar \$138 " —	
Fennel Seed \$6 " —	
Galangal \$7 " \$16	
Grapes \$16 " —	
Kismis \$18 " —	
Glue \$23 " \$27	
Olibanum \$2 " \$15	
Oil Sandalwood \$270 " \$350	
" Rosa \$50 " \$160	
" Cassia \$25 " —	
Raisins \$10.50 " —	
Senna Leaves \$2 " \$5	
Sandalwood \$24 " \$29	
Saltpetre \$11.90 " \$12.20	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer Prinz Heinrich, sailed on 20th December. For Aden:—50 cases cassia. For Beyrouth:—50 cases cassia. For Naples:—50 cases cassia buds, 50 half-chests tea, 4 cases effects. For Genoa:—337 bales raw silk, 55 cases bristles, 1 case hats. For Antwerp:—112 bales feathers, 9 cases chinaware, 5 cases human hair, 5 cases blackwoodware, 3 bales leaf tobacco, 1 case cigars. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—65 cases bristles, 50 bales feathers. For Antwerp or Hamburg or London:—5 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—17 cases chinaware, 12 rolls matting. For Rotterdam:—10 cases chinaware. For Bremerhaven:—12 cases human hair. For Bremen:—153 bales feathers, 3 cases gongs. For Hamburg:—446 bales feathers, 89 rolls matting, 27 bales teamats, 25 cases bristles, 23 cases cigars, 20 cases essential oil, 20 cases preserves, 15 cases human hair, 14 cases feathers, 11 cases blackwoodware, 4 cases chinaware, 2 cases silk. For Copenhagen:—134 bales feathers. For Stockholm:—2 cases chinaware.

Per M. M. steamer Armand Behic sailed on 26th December. For Marseilles:—225 bales raw silk, 200 bales waste silk, 2 cases silk piece goods, 28 bales human hair, 8 cases porcelain. For Lyons:—398 bales raw silk, 1 case tea. For London:—15 bales raw silk. For St. Etienne:—10 bales raw silk. For Messina:—40 bales waste silk. For Barcelona:—17 cases silk piece goods, 2 cases fans. For Buenos Ayres:—1 case silk piece goods, 2 cases sandalwoodware, 1 case porcelain, 1 case lacquered ware. For Matatave:—5 cases provisions. For Diego Suarez:—9 cases provisions.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Market Report, dated Shanghai 21st Dec., 1905, states:—Our Homeward Freight Market remains dull and without change since our last. Coastwise.—This market remains weak with very little doing. Coal rates have dropped again and are now between \$1.00 with very little demand.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland).—Tea G. \$1 1/4 cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo Tels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 29th December, 1905.—Although the week under review has been cut into, and the market dislocated by the Christmas holidays, the few working days have afforded a fair business, and had it not been for the China New Year bogey, which, the settlement having been arranged, is now trotted out as a deterrent to intending investors, a comparatively good business would, in all probability, have been put through. As it is rates have been maintained and a better tone has prevailed in the market.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at the reduced rate of \$857 1/2 and \$860, the continued high rate of sterling exchange being the chief reason for the decline. at time of closing, however, an unsatisfied demand at 860 exists, and it is not at all improbable that 865 would be paid if shares were forthcoming at that rate. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions remain steady but without sales at \$720, at which rate sellers rule the market; at \$710 however a small unsatisfied demand exists. China Traders, after further sales at \$84, have come into a pretty general demand, and no further shares being forthcoming at that rate the market has gradually risen with a few intermediate sales to \$86, at which latter rate buyers rule the market. Cantons are obtainable at \$320 without buyers. North Chinas and Yangtszes unchanged and without local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—China fires have been placed at \$87 and close with a demand at \$88; very few shares however appear to be available and the market looks like further hardening. Hongkongs continue to rule quiet at \$330 with small sales.

SHIPPING.—Douglases continue in demand, but no shares come on the market. Indos have been placed at \$90. Shanghai quoting Tls. 62. China Manilas at \$22 and \$21 and Hongkong, Canton and Macao at 24 1/2. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China sugars have continued dull at \$20 1/2 sellers with no sales to report; a small demand at lower rates, however, meets with no response. Luzons have been placed at \$25 1/2 and later at \$24, market closing with buyers at the latter rate.

MINING.—No changes or business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in request at 163, and a few small lots have changed hands at that rate; at time of closing sales have been effected at 164 and the market closes steady. Kowloon Wharves have ruled quiet at \$108 with small sales, closing quiet. Farnhams have ruled very erratic in Shanghai, the quotations varying from 131 buyers to 126 sellers during the week. The market closes at Tls. 125 buyers. New Amoy Docks unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet with only a small business at 124 to report. Hongkong Hotels have been done at 148. Humphreys at 12 1/2 and 12 1/2, and Kowloon Lands at 40.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have receded in Shanghai to 44, other stocks under this heading remain unchanged and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been placed at 9. China Light & Powers at 9, and Watsons at 12 1/2. The last named are in demand at quotation. No other business under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$860, buyers
National B. of China	£5	£92.10, London, £38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 44
Hongkong	\$10	\$13 1/2
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 54
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 125, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$108, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$164, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$17
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 210, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$25, \$24 1/2
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$28 1/2, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, buyers
Do. New	\$10	\$14 1/2, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$210
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$149
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$13, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$320, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$88, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sales & sel.
North China	£5	Tls. 90
Union	\$100	\$710, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$170
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$124, sales
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12 1/2, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, sales & buy.
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbounnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubas	18/10	\$3.75, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$200, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$24, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35 1/2, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$24 1/2, sales
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$90
Shell Transport Co.	£1	24/-, sellers
Do. Preference	£10	£8. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laund Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$5	\$6 1/2, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10 1/2
Watkins	\$10	\$6, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12 1/2, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 21st December, 1905, states:— Since our last business has been almost at a standstill, owing to the riots in Shanghai which broke out on the morning of Monday the 18th inst. Only yesterday morning business was resumed in earnest, but was entirely confined to making up accounts for the December settlements on the 28th inst. The T. T. rate on London today is 2/10 1/2. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. No business reported. The Hongkong rate is \$870 sellers, the London quotation being £93. 10s. 0d. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo China. Only a very trifling business has been done at Tls. 66, 65, and 64 1/2 for December. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. On the 13th the prevailing rate was Tls. 130 for December, but yesterday shares changed hands at Tls. 127, closing with buyers at this figure. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. A small demand for the account resulted in shares being dealt in at Tls. 205 for December; and Tls. 212 1/2 for March has been reported. There are buyers at this rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf Co. The rate in Hongkong has improved to \$108. Sugar.—No business. Mining.—A few trifling transactions in Weihaiwei Golds have taken place at \$10.50. Lands.—No business reported this week. Industrial.—Cottons. Ewos and Laou Kung Mows have been dealt in in small quantities at Tls. 54. Shanghai Gas. There are buyers at Tls. 128. Langkats. On the 13th shares changed hands at Tls. 215 cum div. for December. The next business reported was ex div. at Tls. 202.50. A demand set in for shares for the settlement, and a fair business was done at Tls. 205 yesterday. Shares can be got at this figure. There is no forward business reported this week. Stores and Hotels.—No business to record. Miscellaneous.—Nothing to report under this heading. Loans and Debentures.—Have not been dealt in this week.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 29th December.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0 1/2
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	257
Credits 4 months' sight	261 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	209 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	50 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152 1/2
Bank, on demand	152 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	152 1/2
Bank, on demand	152 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	99 1/2
ON MANILA.—On demand	100 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	8 1/2 p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	123
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60 1/2
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.75
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$51.60
BAR SILVER, per oz.	30

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 29th December.—Business continues dull, with very little demand for tonnage. From Saigon to North Coast Java, one fixture at 24 cents per picul for prompt loading and more steamers are wanted for January/February loading; to Philippines, Japan and Hongkong, no demand. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul for wet sugar. Coal freights.—From South Japan Coal port to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton; to Singapore, \$1.50 nominal. The following are the settlements:—
Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Wakamatsu to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Enwa Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.75 per ton.
Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to one port North Coast Java, 24 cents per picul.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—

ARRIVALS.

- 22, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 23, Changsha, British str., from Kobe.
 24, Hingsang, British str., from Java.
 23, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 23, Manaton, British str., from Newcastle.
 23, Nicomedia, German str., from Portland.
 23, Telemachus, British str., from Liverpool.
 24, Arroyo, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 24, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str. from Haiphong.
 24, Charterhouse, Brit. str., from Singapore.
 24, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 24, Forsteck, German str., from Hamburg.
 24, Glaucus, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 24, Manica, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Otra, Norwegian str., from Fremantle.
 24, Shahjahan, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Tientsin, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
 25, Dagmar, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Knivsher, German str., from Chinkiang.
 25, Lennox, British str., from Callao.
 25, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 25, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 25, Nubia, German str., from Foochow.
 25, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Sithonie, German str., from Shanghai.
 25, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 25, Zaffro, British str., from Manila.
 26, Arconia, Russian troopship, from S'pore.
 26, Australian, British str., from Moji.
 26, Emma Luyken, German str., from Hongay.
 26, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 26, Japan, British str., from London.
 26, Kenley, British str., from Calcutta.
 26, Lyra, American str., from Tacoma.
 26, Maclew, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Onsang, British str., from Kuchinotzu.
 26, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 26, Polynesian, French str., from Marseilles.
 27, Chihli, British str., from Wakamatsu.
 27, China, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 27, Katanga, British str., from Moji.
 27, Knutsford, British str., from London.
 27, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 27, Shansi, British str., from Wuhu.
 27, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 28, Benlomond, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
 28, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
 28, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Empire, British str., from Sydney.
 28, Oceana, British str., from Bombay.

December— DEPARTURES.

- 22, Bangkok, German str., for Bangkok.
 22, China, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 22, Dunera, British transport, for Singapore.
 22, Germania, Norwegian str., for Sydney.
 22, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 22, Waishing, British str., for Foochow.
 23, Anapa, British str., for Singapore.
 23, Asama, British str., for Calcutta.
 23, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., for Rangoon.
 23, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
 23, Hsinchang, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 23, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
 23, Xochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
 24, Bechuana, British str., for Nagasaki.
 24, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 24, Eva, Norwegian str., for Newcastle.
 24, Herm. Menzell, Ger. str., for Maulmain.
 24, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 24, Paoting, British str., for Kobe.
 24, Pitsanlok, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Pronté, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 24, Thode Fagelund, Norw. str., for N'castle.
 25, Glaucus, British str., for London.
 25, Manica, British str., for London.
 26, Armand Behic, French str., for Europe.
 26, Chingtu, British str., for Yokohama.
 26, Chiyan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 26, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 26, Nubia, German str., for Hamburg.
 26, Polynesian, French str., for Shanghai.
 26, Telemachus, British str., for Nagasaki.
 26, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 27, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 27, Arconia, Russian troopship, for Shanghai.
 27, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 27, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
 27, Emma Luyken, German str., for Canton.

- 27, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Kampot, French str., for Kwangchowwan.
 27, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Knivberg, German str., for Canton.
 27, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, M. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
 27, Mongolia, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 27, Pakhoi, British str., for Chinkiang.
 27, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
 27, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
 27, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 28, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Australian, British str., for Australia.
 28, Benlomond, British str., for London.
 28, C. Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
 28, Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
 28, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 28, Japan, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Knutsford, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Progress, German str., for Canton.
 28, Shansi, British str., for Canton.
 28, Sithonia, German str., for Hamburg.
 28, Doonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Wisconsin, U.S. battleship, for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Mongolia*, from San Francisco. Mrs. H. Pangborn, Con. Gen. F. D. Cheshire, Messrs. Louis Haase, B. Heggenghaugen, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. King, Mr. and Mrs. J. Knox, Rev. Father Lennon, Mr. J. S. Pillsbury, Lieut. I. C. Richardson, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Snell, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. McVay, Messrs. J. C. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Beckford, Messrs. J. J. Cullen, T. D. Healy, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hemperly, Mrs. H. J. Stanley, Lieut. A. G. Williams Foote, Messrs. C. E. Heffeltiger, E. H. Klaut, Mrs. W. H. McDonald, Mrs. W. H. Mitchell, Messrs. R. H. Lake, F. K. Montgomery, Mrs. J. F. Orsner, Rev. M. J. Stinson, Mr. R. H. Preston, Comdr. J. N. Robinson, U.S.N., and Mr. F. C. Wells; from Yokohama, Col. and Mrs. R. A. Eddy, Mr. R. A. Wolff, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Bissett, Messrs. G. H. Dann and Geo. W. Wherlin; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lloyd, Mr. Geo. Bosson, Jr., Mrs. J. C. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McCulloch, Miss McCulloch, Messrs. C. B. W. Hodgson and C. A. G. Hodgson; from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Eisen; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe, Mr. and Mrs. Bruins, Mr. T. Sumii, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Ling, Mr. H. Burrell, Mrs. Barnes, Messrs. J. Besch, C. Tamm, Mrs. Pike, Miss Kendall, Mrs. C. J. Harris, Mr. Kendall, Miss Robeson and Mr. R. Weidensall.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong from Kobe. Mr. de Gast; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Blechyndew and 6 children, Miss Maataven, Mr. J. P. Sisson, Mrs. J. H. Thomas, Messrs. J. L. Y. Ageo, B. S. Jacob, Bory, Bultitude, E. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Floyd, Lady Florence Boyle, Mr. Geo. Weitch, Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. Silva, Broslik, Cey, Mrs. Anna Oida, Miss Phillips, Messrs. Gaensler, Ludaking and Tolamal; for Saigon from Kobe, Mrs. U. Araki; from Shanghai, Messrs. Choll, Angelini and Khadouri; for Singapore from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Phra Jayasurion and 3 children, Messrs. Lund, Hauser, Das, Bengston and Hammer; from Kobe, Messrs. Doi, Ohara and Hori; from Shanghai, Messrs. Ernest D. Simon, Leroy, Mrs. Bang, Messrs. Anzuki, Caleris and Ayama; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mrs. Kate Bezore, Mrs. J. L. Zime; from Kobe, Messrs. Robert Collier, Chatterjee, Takenchi, Ida, Sake, Ito, Geka and Mafutaro; from Shanghai, Mr. B. Batki; for Port Said from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Alti Cey, Mrs. W. Shimansky; from Shanghai, Mr. Duowanowsky, Mr. and Mrs. Bartoszewitch, Messrs. S. Loukowsky, V. Saze, Gnoutcheff, Mr. and Mrs. Schferbenin and 7 children; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Messrs. K. Kusunose, J. Keda, S. Yamamoto and Mrs. Ribault; from Kobe, Mrs. St. Ildéfense, Baron d'Ungeru Stenberg, Messrs. Kajikawa, Sakai, Kawagoe and Huet Joseph; from Shanghai, Messrs. G. Iefire, Bernard, Ruby, Klynen, Ipper, Mr. and Mrs. Echard, Messrs. Tourrel and Kramo.

Per *Polynesian*, for Hongkong from Marseilles. Mr. and Mrs. Dreyfus, Messrs. Ulmann, J. Rommy and Rev. Desvazieres; from Colombo, Major and Mrs. Melville and Mr. J. M. Rees; from Singapore, Messrs. Nagay and Lalarum;

from Saigon, Messrs. L. Claret Llobet, Grouve, Mr. and Mrs. Buiere, Messrs. Sur and Rivet; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Mrs. Wlatow, Mrs. Faga, Consul and Mrs. Ratard, Mr. Sermet, Mrs. Mesny and infant, Mr. Nachom, Mrs. Nayliens and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Lhuillery, Messrs. Boullair, Cecile Abram, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt; from Port Said, Mrs. Georgestown; from Colombo, Mr. Michel Bacha; from Saigon, Messrs. C. E. Smith, Plaisant, and Berger; for Kobe from Colombo, Mr. Cadery; from Singapore, Mr. Fariya; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. C. Dormer, Messrs. Gysin, and Bardinot.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Berry, Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Bawn, Messrs. C. C. Brunner, W. F. Barnes, R. G. Braschi, C. J. Connell, Comdr. F. W. Coffin, U.S.N., Lieut. Dismicks, U.S.N., Mrs. F. Farrington, Messrs. E. Goddard and F. A. Gerryost, Mrs. A. D. Helms, Mr. and Mrs. Ast. G. Hammersley, Miss Hammersley, Mr. J. C. Hanna, Mrs. M. E. Jones, Mrs. M. Keller, Mrs. Rose Lawrence, Mrs. E. B. Leigh, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Miller, Mr. J. G. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Page, Mr. John H. Page, Jr., Dr. R. M. Powers, Mrs. J. A. Ross, Messrs. Jas. Rolph and R. T. Rolph, Mrs. S. Spalding, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Shearer, Messrs. D. Le Roy Topping, Wm. Tipton, H. E. Wright, T. D. Witt, Guy Whitlock, U.S.N., Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Watson, Messrs. Geo. Palmer, Oliver Bainbridge, F. P. de Silva, Mrs. Anna Miller and Mrs. C. Fukuda.

Per *Australian*, from Japan for Hongkong. Mrs. and Miss Hicks; for Brisbane, Messrs. A. Morton, C. White, W. White and E. Pullman; for Sydney, Mrs. Mead, Messrs. Benson, Wall, Mr. and Mrs. Oxley.

Per *Empire*, from Australia, &c., Messrs. W. Watkins and T. W. Wellink, Miss Hack, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkby and 2 children, Mr. A. J. Broughton, Misses M. Anderson and I. Mawson, Dr. and Mrs. Ings, Miss Nicholson, Mr. Dieter, Mr. and Mrs. Reeves, Miss E. Doyle, Rev. B. Buxton, Messrs. N. Anderson, W. Austin, W. Moffin, Dr. and Mrs. O. Wunderlich, Dr. and Mrs. Rygate, Misses Hamilton (3), Messrs. R. A. Caldwell, O. T. Tamm, Jos. Pesch, W. G. Gomez, L. H. Hears, and E. H. Gates.

Per *Chusan*, from Shanghai for Hongkong. Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Sturtevant, Messrs. J. C. Hansen, Lewis Plummer and P. Schalthoper; for Singapore, Mr. J. West; for Penang, Mr. P. West; for Colombo, Mr. A. M. Marshall, Mrs. Stevens and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. G. Clark, Lieut. K. M. Grieves, Messrs. J. K. Grant, R. W. Swallow and F. W. Kegel; for Bombay, Mrs. F. W. Vicajjee and infant, Mrs. Vicajjee and infant, Messrs. C. B. Kohiar, Scrabshaw, F. Bonajee, L. Majima, D. Tamari, T. Jamase, T. Isuboya, K. Kato, Nakashima, Mrs. B. H. G. Moore.

DEPARTED.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Saigon, Mr. W. Steele Boyce, Revs. P. P. Pillot, Dubulle and Grand Maire, Mr. A. Ritche and Miss Ercarnaceo; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Augus Bairnson, Mr. Charles E. Heffeltiger, Miss Robeson, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Van de Stadt, Messrs. E. L. Palmer, John S. Pillsbury, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Metcalf, Mr. J. T. Knoetsen, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss J. L. McCulloch; for Colombo, Mrs. Hall Wright and Major I. P. Doyle; for Marseilles, Messrs. J. Lecomte, Charles Priour, Jardine, David Smith and Dr. Klynen.

Per *Polynesian*, for Shanghai, Messrs. R. P. Ch. Legac, B. C. Avasia, Angelini, Wm. Dobbs and Cattarinich; for Kobe, Mr. E. P. H. Metcalf.

Per *Mongolia*, for China and Japan ports. Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Campbell, Miss D. Page, Mr. A. G. Eames, Mrs. S. Allen Presby, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Royce, Messrs. F. N. Lapan and W. Maxfield; for San Francisco, &c., Mr. Geo. F. Kendall, Miss M. A. Kendall, Messrs. Geo. W. Werlin, J. M. Lacalle, P. Muhlens, Theo. Bauer, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Brown; Major and Mrs. H. B. Melville, Mrs. S. Pike, Mr. H. E. Wright, Mrs. A. D. Helms and Mr. W. M. Tipton.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 131, Fleet Street, E.C.